



THE INDEPENDENT

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**FREE
MAGAZINE**

FOR EVERY READER
COLLECT THREE TOKENS
SEE PAGE 16



We were misled, say parents of babies who died in experiment

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

PARENTS WHOSE babies died or were injured while undergoing an experimental treatment at an NHS trust hospital claimed yesterday that they had been misled into signing research consent forms for their children.

The families decided to speak out after *The Independent* revealed that the Health minister Baroness Hayman has ordered an inquiry into the conduct of research at the North Staffordshire NHS Trust in response to concerns about a trial of a new type of ventilator to help the babies breathe. During the four-year study, from 1989 to 1993, 43 of 122 babies died or were brain-damaged.

Sharon Bradley, 30, said yesterday that she was taking legal action against the trust and had complained to the General Medical Council about the way the experiment was conducted. Her son, Stephen, five, has severe learning difficulties, autistic traits and cannot talk. "I was not told anything about this being some sort of experiment. I was just persuaded that this was the best treatment for my son. I signed some things in the neonatal unit, but I had no idea this was a trial," she said.

Lisa and Paul-Bretton said their life had been torn apart by the death of their son Joshua in 1991 but they had not learnt he had been involved in an experiment until 1997. "We were hoodwinked into going along with the hospital. There are so many people you can blame ... all the doctors and hospital authorities, because they kept us in the dark so long."

Debbie and Carl Henshall, whose complaint to their local MP Lin Golding triggered the inquiry, said their consent form had been "manufactured". They had one daughter who died and one who was brain-damaged in 1992, but they only found out about the trial four years later. Mrs Henshall, who gave evidence to the inquiry on



Sharon Bradley, who says she was not told anything about the experiment, with her autistic son Stephen, five, at home in Newcastle-under-Lyme

Tuesday, said: "I find that incredible. I know my way around a 'prem' unit, having had six premature babies, but basically they fooled me. They fooled me not once but twice. I am angry about that."

Professor Cook said obtaining consent from parents at a time of intense stress, such as after the birth of a premature baby, presented enormous difficulties. In a study conducted by the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit in five hospitals in which severely ill babies were

placed on a heart-lung machine, the researchers interviewed the parents a year later to find out what they had understood.

"The researchers had taken enormous care about getting informed consent but were horrified to discover that the parents had completely misunderstood or failed to retain what it was about."

In the North Staffordshire trial, led by the consultant paediatrician Professor David Southall, the treatment involved

placing premature babies who had difficulty breathing in a modern version of an iron lung using a technique known as CNEP (continuous negative extra corporeal pressure), instead of the conventional treatment of inserting a tube into their lungs and forcing air in.

Of 122 babies who had the experimental treatment, 28 died and 15 suffered brain damage. In a control group of 122 who had conventional treatment, 22 died and 10 suffered brain damage.

Despite the higher death rate among the experimental group (although the difference was not great enough to be statistically significant), the trust said yesterday that it was "an effective treatment in reducing the duration of oxygen therapy required ... in premature infants".

It added that the babies were "a very high risk group" and there was no evidence that any death or disability was a consequence of the study.

The British Medical Association said obtaining informed consent was "at the very heart of good medical practice".

A spokesman for North Staffordshire NHS Trust said last night: "We believe very firmly that our consent procedures went beyond the national guidelines of the time. I would accept that people in this situation (after a premature birth) are under huge stress and there may be a national issue of obtaining consent in these cases."

Andrew Fox

Key GM foods report 'is not fit to publish'

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

THE CONTROVERSIAL research at the centre of the row over genetically modified (GM) foods has been dismissed as substandard and unworthy of being published in any reputable scientific journal.

An independent analysis of the research report written by Dr Arpad Pusztai, which showed that rats were damaged when they were fed GM potatoes, has found serious failings with his experiments, undermining his main conclusion that the food is unsafe.

Tom Sanders, professor of nutrition at King's College Lon-

Tim



don and one of Britain's most distinguished food toxicologists, has dismissed Dr Pusztai's research as "fundamentally flawed" and "unconvincing".

Professor Sanders, who was asked by *The Independent* to be an objective referee of the study, said none of the major scientific journals would publish the research. "In my experience as an editor and reviewer it would be rejected by the *British Journal of Nutrition*, *Journal of Nutrition* and *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*," he writes in his peer review published today in *The Independent*.

Dr Pusztai had to retire from the Rowett Research Institute in Aberdeen last August after claiming his work showed rats suffer when fed GM potatoes.

Professor Martin Chiricups, of the University of California at San Diego, a friend of Dr Pusztai, has scrutinised the research and he described the claims as "extraordinary". Dr Pusztai has also been criticised by colleagues on the project. John Gatehouse, a biologist and one of the three research co-ordinators, said he could not see how Dr Pusztai could form his conclusions based on the data he has seen.

Dr Pusztai was unavailable for comment.

Pusztai: the verdict, Review, page 9

Turks humiliate Kurd leader as London protest ends

THE OCCUPATION of the Greek Embassy in London by Kurdish protesters came to a peaceful end yesterday after politicians joined police negotiators to help reach an agreement.

Shortly after 2pm, 77 protesters, including four women, walked from the building in Holland Park, west London, and were arrested and charged

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE
AND JUSTIN HUGGLER
in Istanbul

under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

As the siege wound down, fall-out from the capture by Turkish forces of the Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan continued across Europe.

The Greek government was reeling from outrage over its failure to protect Mr Ocalan. Three cabinet members, including the Foreign Minister, Theodoros Pangalos, were forced to resign and the government's future was in doubt.

In a Turkish island prison, prosecutors began interrogating Mr Ocalan. They also hu-

bilized the rebel leader by forcing him to stand between two Turkish flags to be filmed.

With the Kurdish insurgents rudderless, the Turkish army kept up its latest incursion into neighbouring northern Iraq in pursuit of rebels seeking sanctuary. Troops backed by helicopters and warplanes pursued fighters in northern

Iraq for the fourth day running.

In London, the human-rights lawyer Gareth Peirce was involved in final negotiations and agreed to represent those arrested. The end of the occupation ended three days of tension: with many Kurdish supporters demonstrating in the streets next to the embassy and keeping up a 24-

hour vigil, police had been concerned that the situation could flare at any moment.

Police said that the sole hostage, the embassy caretaker, Bahis Patsouris, was in good health. He declined to comment on his ordeal, which began when the Kurds forced the door of the embassy.

It took less than an hour for

all the Kurds to leave the building yesterday, to be searched and arrested and driven away to be charged.

Police said that they were remaining on the alert and that up to 500 Kurdish demonstrators remained in streets near the embassy last night.

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IN THE INDEPENDENT ON SATURDAY

Everyone wants a building by Nigel Coates, but Sheffield got there first

E JANE DICKSON MEETS THE ARCHITECT OF POP

THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAE, MARK STEEL, ROBERT FISK, DEBORAH ORR, TERENCE BLACKER, JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, SUSANNAH FRANKEL, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILES KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITTELL SMITH

Britain gives citizenship to 125,000

BY COLIN BROWN

Chief Political Correspondent

RIGHTS OF access to Britain are to be granted to more than 125,000 islanders after Robin Cook won a Whitehall battle to extend citizenship to the inhabitants of some of the remaining British colonial outposts including Bermuda, the Cayman Islands and the British Virgin Islands.

The Cabinet decision, which will be announced in a Government White Paper next month, ends a battle between the Foreign Office and the Home Office over extending rights of citizenship status to 13 British Dependent Territories.

The *Independent* has learned that the Foreign Secretary also overcame stiff resistance from Alastair Darling, the Social Security Secretary, over the possible increased cost in the welfare budget if an influx of fresh immigration is allowed. Mr Cook got the backing of the Cabinet after arguing that few would take up the right to enter Britain.

Those who will be granted rights of access occupy the "last pink bits on the map", including around 60,000 inhabitants of Bermuda, the Caymans and the British Virgin Islands, who are thought least likely to

A spokesman for the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants said: "Jack Straw has been very sensitive to the fact that the Home Office has opposed the principle because of its concern about granting British citizenship rights to Hong Kong people. It was only prepared to go down that route if the Foreign Office agreed to take the lead, and take the flak. They are prepared to do that.

The Foreign Office has been getting a lot of its time taken up by receiving lobbies from microscopic islands and from big-wig supporters. They are quite successful at getting MPs and peers who are quite properly concerned about their rights. There is no prospect of any influx of these people coming into this country."

The Government is anxiously watching the outcome of a case which was referred recently by the High Court to the European Court of Justice for BOCs to have rights of movement across the European Union. If their appeal is upheld, it could reopen the whole question of the citizenship claims by the former Hong Kong nationals.



People from Bermuda 'one of the last pink bits on the map' are among those to get rights of access to Britain

■ PLUS
ANNA PAVORD IN THE GARDEN

DIRTY DANCING:
UK SALSA WARS

Air bags
'make
you
deaf'

BY CLARE GARNER

AIR BAGS, which protect drivers and passengers in car accidents, could cause permanent loss of hearing or ringing in the ears after a crash, according to new research.

Researchers from Leeds General Infirmary, St James's University Hospital in Leeds and the Vehicle Safety Research Centre in Loughborough believe that the noise generated when air bags inflate - which can be up to 170 decibels - could damage the ears.

Their findings, published today in the *British Medical Journal*, are based on two cases in which drivers suffered hearing loss and persistent tinnitus which they believe may have resulted from air-bag inflation in low-speed collisions.

In one, a 38-year-old woman was involved in a collision in the United States while driving at about 20mph. The air bag struck her in the face and she noticed an immediate hearing loss, tinnitus and unsteadiness, the report says. Tests showed permanent hearing loss in the inner ear.

In the other case a 68-year-old man drove into the back of another vehicle at about 15mph. The air bag inflated and he complained of an immediate "bilateral" hearing loss and tinnitus. A test confirmed that his hearing had been impaired.

Overcrowded train line refuses to add any extra carriages

BY PHILIP THORNTON

Transport Correspondent

A TRAIN company with one of the worst punctuality records sparked an outcry yesterday when it said it could not justify investing more money to relieve overcrowding.

Connex said it wanted to add two carriages to trains on its two southern England franchises, but said there was "no commercial case" for it to invest

paid for the work. Connex said it would cost £20m-£30m to upgrade the track to cater for the longer trains.

It hinted that the only way for it to do this would be through "approval and support" - if the Government agreed to extend its franchise, thereby enabling it to recoup the investment, or

be more expensive. A spokesman said: "It would be difficult to justify the investment purely on commercial grounds but it would give an enormous capacity increase. There are other benefits such as meeting the anticipated rise in peak demand."

Sir Alan Greengross, chairman of the London Regional

Passengers Committee, said: "There is very little that most of the operators are doing that gives us enough confidence that they should get to carry on for another five years."

"Most passengers are appalled that anyone could get a new contract when they want the present contracts taken away from them. Passengers

will find this totally inexplicable." SouthEastern was given a D grade for running 16 per cent of its trains late in 1998 and SouthCentral a C, where 10 per cent ran late.

It has a 15-year franchise on SouthEastern and has already had a bid to extend its seven-year SouthCentral contract rejected. Connex is understood to

be furious with the new grading system, which takes no account of the fact that it runs the most intensively used railway in Europe.

It believes it has delivered lower fares, more train services and an increase in passengers - all at a time when its taxpayer subsidy is falling. Great North Eastern Railway

sparked a similar row when it said it would buy 10 new trains in exchange for an extension. Its chief executive Chris Garner also angered Virgin by saying GNER should have its franchise extended to show other operators how to run a proper railway. It said it deserved to have its seven-year franchise extended.

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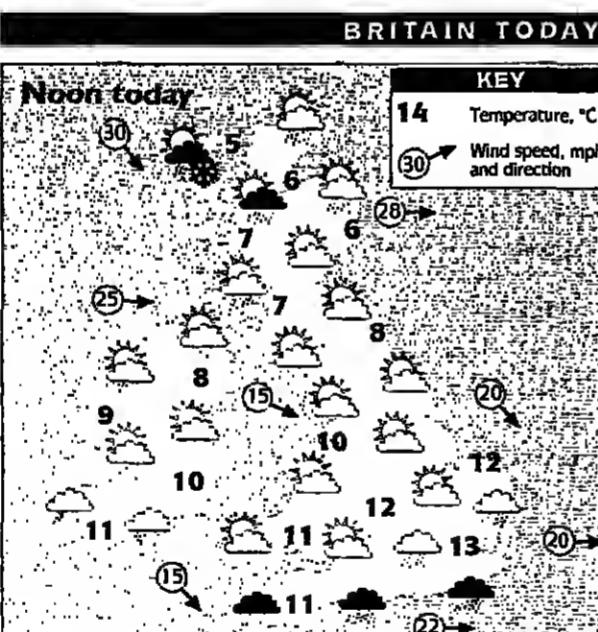
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FORECAST

General situation: Southern and eastern England will be dry and bright, after a wet and gusty start, although rain is set to return this evening. The rest of England and Wales will see early rain clear to leave sunny spells and the odd shower. Rain in the north will spread from Scotland and Northern Ireland cold with sunny spells but showers in the north and west will become more widespread this afternoon, turning increasingly wintry.

Case 5 & 8E England, London, Charnwood: Mild but dull, wet and windy at first. Bright spells and a fresh northerly will spread southwards. A fresh westerly wind. Max temp 10-13°C (50-55°F).

Case 5 & 8E England, Wales: Early rain clearing to leave sunshine and the odd shower. A fresh south-westerly wind. Easing to moderate westerly. Max temp 9-12°C (46-54°F).

E Anglia, E England: Early rain soon clearing to leave cold but with some decent sunny spells. A fresh south-westerly wind. Easing to moderate westerly. Max temp 9-12°C (46-54°F).

Wales: Early rain soon clearing to leave cold but with some decent sunny spells. A fresh south-westerly wind. Max temp 9-12°C (46-54°F).

Wales, N & NE Scotland, Glasgow, Aberdeens, W & N Isles: Cold, showery and strong winds. Max temp 5-8°C (41-46°F).

Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland: A fresh and rather cold westerly wind, and it will become much colder with showers and sunny breaks. A fresh westerly wind. Max temp 5-8°C (43-46°F).

N Ireland: Rather cold and breezy with sunny spells and the odd shower. A fresh westerly wind. Max temp 8-9°C (46-52°F).

SW, NW & NE Scotland, Glasgow, Aberdeen, W & N Isles: Cold, showery and strong winds. Max temp 5-8°C (41-46°F).

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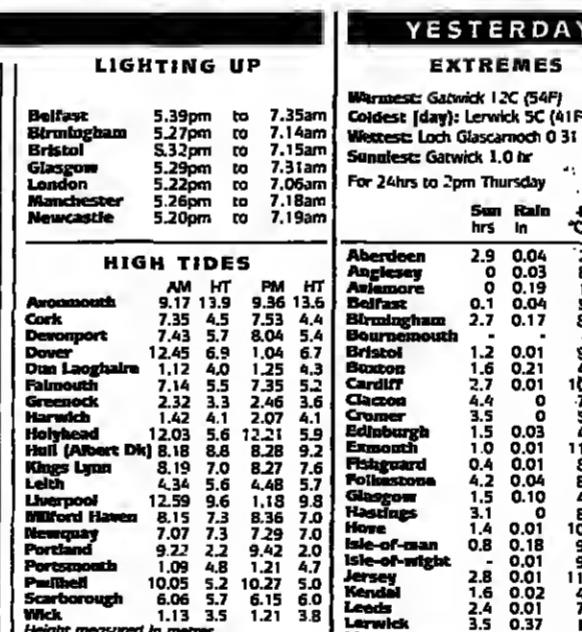
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AIR QUALITY

Today's readings

London	NO ₂	Moderate	Good
S England	Good	Good	Good
C England	Good	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good	Good
N Ireland	Good	Good	Good

London 2.0 0.01 10 50

South East 3.0 0.02 10 50

West Midlands 2.0 0.01 10 50

North West 2.0 0.01 10 50

Scotland 2.0 0.01 10 50

N Ireland 2.0 0.01 10 50

London 2.0 0.01 10 50

South East 2.0 0.01 10 50

West Midlands 2.0 0.01 10 50

North West 2.0 0.01 10 50

Scotland 2.0 0.01 10 50

N Ireland 2.0 0.01 10 50

London 2.0 0.01 10 50

South East 2.0 0.01 10 50

West Midlands 2.0 0.01 10 50

North West 2.0 0.01 10 50

Scotland 2.0 0.01 10 50

N Ireland 2.0 0.01 10 50

London 2.0 0.01 10 50

South East 2.0 0.01 10 50

West Midlands 2.0 0.01 10 50

Would you get involved to stop this? The Home Secretary says it's your duty

THE OTHER night on the last train to Dover from London Charing Cross there was an incident that the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, would have deplored. The time was 12.25am and we were about five minutes away from Orpington when a man staggered up the aisle, briefcase akimbo, and tried to open a locked door.

He banged and banged on that door. Another man then stood up, shaky, and said he was "an idiot". There was shouting and pushing. The entire carriage watched in silence. There was more pushing, more swearing, more shouting.

Then I shouted at the two men to "stop it".

Everyone's heads swivelled as one in my direction. There was total silence for one long moment. Then everyone looked at the floor, or the newspaper, or out the window. The men resumed battle. Orpington station had never been so welcome.

So what would the Home Secretary have done? Yesterday he said that in order to end our uncaring "walk on by" society we all needed to realise that such incidents are not someone else's problem.

But those whose lives are spent confronting such things have a view too. "It's the glib remark of a wealthy politician," said Bob Holman, a community worker in Glasgow's East End estate. He called Mr Straw's ideas "too simplistic" and said intervening leads to revenge attacks.

Ignoring trouble did not express approval. "It might express justified fear. Action needs to be taken collectively within a neighbourhood and by people who are in a good relationship with the youngsters."

The Home Secretary said that he was not asking people to do anything that he has not



A boy attempts to steal from a car

BY ANN TRENEGAN

said. "This is true. Jack Straw seems to have been born with a 'have-a-go' gene. As a child, he told off an ice-cream vendor for playing his music too loudly after 7pm. Over the years he has chased and apprehended two muggers and one burglar; the latter being cornered in a place called Nab Lane in Blackburn.

Psychologists have been studying bystander apathy since Kitty Genovese was attacked in front of 37 people in New York some 30 years ago.

Their response was to turn up their television sets. In half an hour she was dead.

Research showed that her big mistake was to be attacked on a busy street. "As long as we think other people are around, we are less likely to act," said Professor Bibb Latane, of

Florida Atlanta University. "Each individual looks at a worrying event and decides it may not be as bad as he fears because others are not doing anything."

Even the Church of England understands why we all think of our own safety first. "But then you need to think what else you can do. If you only think of your own safety and walk off, then nothing is achieved," said Steve Jenkins, a spokesman for the Church of England. What would Jesus do? "I hate those questions. It's not something I can answer."

The Home Office says that we need to use our own judgement. This is difficult in an age when people are killed over a parking space or stabbed if they ask someone to stop queue-jumping.

Psychologists say it is more an individual thing. Certain types of people tend to intervene when they see a crime because they think it is the right thing to do. They tend to have been brought up in families with a strong sense of personal responsibility. They do not think they are brave, or particularly unusual.

Nobody was brave or unusual in the train carriage the other night. Two men fighting over a locked door is about as petty as it gets, but the Home Secretary would say that was no excuse.

Things could have turned nasty and then we would have wondered who to blame.

Police want civilians on patrol

CHIEF CONSTABLES have backed the introduction of civilian street patrols to act as a second security force to help police. The "neighbourhood wardens" will be used to tackle noisy and disruptive neighbours, vandals, litter louts and anti-social behaviour.

The Association of Chief Police Officers (Acpo) voted to support the introduction of wardens in England and Wales, arguing that it was an "inevitable" and "welcome" development.

The wardens are expected to be trained by the police, but paid for by local authorities and private sponsorship. They will have uniforms and radios to keep in touch with the police.

BY JASON BENNETTO

Crime Correspondent

The move will cause anger among rank-and-file officers who believe it will undermine the role of the "best bobby".

There are already a small number of local authority-run patrols, notably in Swindon and Bedford in Co Durham, but the support of England and Wales' 43 chief constables will lead to a rapid increase in new outfits.

Ian Blair, Chief Constable of Surrey and secretary of the Acpo sub-committee which is drawing up plans for the patrols, said yesterday: "There's a broad recognition among

chief officers that neighbourhood wardens are inevitable and should be welcomed. They will provide a visible presence which helps support the police and community."

He added that the wardens would be expected to "deal with minor aspects of anti-social behaviour such as noise, illegal parking in driveways, rubbish dumping and disputes among tenants and neighbours".

He stressed that the wardens would not have police powers, but would be able to make citizen arrests, which allows anyone to detain a person who has broken the law. "In 90 per cent of cases I'm sure a word in the ear of whoever is

being a nuisance will be enough to make them stop."

Two local authorities in Surrey are interested in setting up wardens and Scotland Yard is in discussions with Westminster, Wandsworth and Brent councils in London, about setting up civilian patrol teams made up of local authority employees.

The decision to back the use of wardens was made at Acpo's full council in December, but the outcome has only now been disclosed.

Fred Eroughton, chairman of the Police Federation, said: "The public deserves fully trained, accountable, professional police officers and not a cheap alternative."



'Don't walk on by' – it is easier said than done

JACK STRAW says people should not just "walk on by". But from the Yorkshire suburbs to inner-city Bermondsey, in south-east London, the view is simple: A man and woman fighting is their business, but save a dog at all costs.

Yesterday in Bermondsey Jenny Ellis, 27, an office worker from Central London, said she would hesitate before remanding someone for spitting at people from a bridge. "Someone could turn around and stab you. You could lose your life over something simple."

"If there was a man hitting a woman I would definitely intervene – but it depends how tall the man was."

Kieran Pope, a 24-year-old scaffolder from East London, said a public-minded approach could stray into stupidity.

If a phone box was being vandalised: "It would depend on who was doing it," he said. "I wouldn't intervene if it could get me into trouble. The person could be a bit of a nutter. You don't know what people are like. If someone does that they are not all there."

He would almost certainly stop a man hitting his partner but would only stop a woman. "If she was stamping on his head with high heels then I would restrain her."

Sophie Kerton, a 23-year-old production company worker, from North London, said: "Racism makes me sick. I will verbally stand up against anyone being racist but when it

comes to someone beating someone up I would hesitate because I am only a girl. But when the adrenaline starts to rush you don't know what you would do."

Would she stop a child spitting at passers-by? "I would stop a child spitting from a bridge on to passers-by? Someone dropping litter? A person hitting a dog? Vandals damaging a phone box? A couple having a fight? White youths picking on a black youth?"

probably laugh. Kids always do things like that."

In the Yorkshire commuter village of Horsforth, attitudes depended on the seriousness of the misdemeanour.

Sue Cheaton, 22, working in the village bakery, would not intervene if children were dropping litter or spitting.

"A couple fighting and arguing, well, she might deserve to get hit, how do I know?"

"In a racist attack I'd get in there straight away."

Jane Hollingsworth, 63, shopping Morrison's store, said she would definitely "have a word" with people dropping litter, but not spitting.

"If they were hitting a dog I'd shout and call the police. Couples fighting I can't be dealing with, it's their business."

"If there were a racial attack, I would call the police."

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Planting of GM crops to be halted

GENETICALLY MODIFIED crops will not be grown commercially until the Government is satisfied their management does not harm farmland wildlife, the environment minister, Michael Meacher, said.

Commercial planting will not be allowed until enough data have been gathered. The assurance, amounting to an indefinite moratorium, will go some way to meeting concerns of the Government's wildlife advisers, English Nature, that the countryside may be devastated by new weedkillers which most of the crops are being designed to accommodate.

English Nature and its sister agencies in Wales and Scotland have called for a three-to-five-year moratorium on commercial plantings until research on the new weedkillers, and the possible trans-pollination effect on wild plants of the GM crops, has been carried out. Tony Blair has publicly rejected the moratorium call.

Mr Meacher said yesterday: "We need the accurate, scientifically based data on which we can make the judgment that the sowing of GM crops and the use of their accompanying herbicides does not cause significant damage to the environment."

His comments came as the Government took the unprecedented step of issuing all its MPs with a "fact-pack" signed by five ministers and designed to quell fears over GM crops.

It illustrates the depth of government anxiety over the issue. "The Government recognises there is public concern about genetic modification. It is a fast-moving science and we accept we do not always have all

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY
COLIN BROWN AND
FRAN ABRAMS

the answers. We want to understand people's views," the letter said.

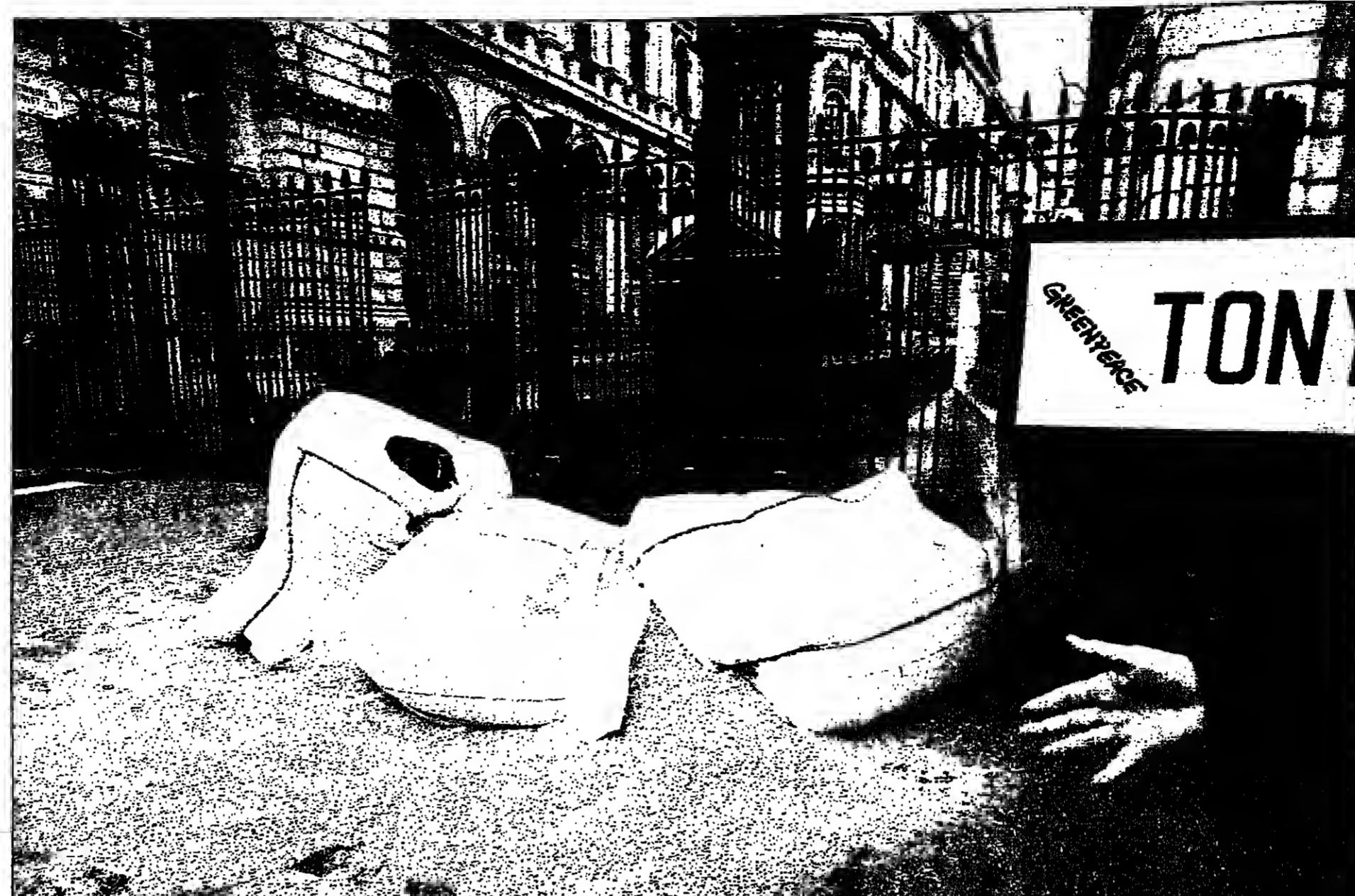
At present the Government has agreed a voluntary moratorium on commercial GM plantings with the biotechnology industry until spring 2000. Yesterday both English Nature and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said that this would not nearly be long enough for proper test data to be gathered.

Two farms are being used this summer to test the large-scale environmental effects of growing oilseed rape genetically modified to be herbicide-tolerant, which is first in the queue for commercial growth in the UK.

But Mr Meacher said that if not enough data had been collected by next spring, he would go back to the biotechnology companies and explain that more time was needed.

In the light of current publicity, he said, he would expect them to co-operate, but hinted that if they did not, the Government would force them to.

Although Monsanto and Zeneca, two of the biggest biotechnology companies, said on Wednesday that they would fight, in the European Court, any enforced delay on commercial plantings, Article 16 of the European Union directive regulating GM crop plantings gives the Government power to stop them and revoke licences already given, if new information is discovered that they may be harmful to the environment.



Genetically modified soya dumped yesterday at the gates of Downing Street, where seven Greenpeace members were arrested and later released on police bail. Activists were also held trying to stop a GM shipment being landed in Liverpool, and police impounded the boats of Greenpeace members heading to the port for a seaborne protest

Mykcl Nicolau

Seeds ban could lead to 'brain-drain'

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

A BAN ON genetically-modified crops would lead to a "brain-drain", with many of the UK's leading scientists forced to move abroad to continue their studies, says a leading producer of GM food.

Zeneca, the pharmaceutical and agrochemicals giant, claims a moratorium on the planting of GM seeds could destroy Britain's lead in biotechnology research and deprive consumers of choice.

English Nature, the government wildlife agency, and the

Conservative Party have called for a three-year freeze on GM crops to assess the effects of the new herbicide-resistant seeds on the countryside.

But Michael Pragnell, the head of Zeneca's agrochemicals operations, has warned that a ban could cause a mass exodus of Britain's best brains.

"It would be extremely bad for the progress of science and it would be extremely bad for the country," he said. "If you

have a ban] you are encouraging leading scientists to move elsewhere."

Sir Richard Sykes, head of the drug giant Glaxo Wellcome and one of the most respected figures in the pharmaceutical industry yesterday said the debate on GM food was ill-informed, and attacked the Conservative Party for supporting the ban.

The Tories, he said, were "jumping on the anti-GM bandwagon" even though they had supported them while in power.

Zeneca has applied for permission to produce its GM

tomato paste in Europe following the success of its supermarket trials in the UK. The company sold more than 1.6m cans of the puree in market trials in Sainsbury and Safeway stores.

The product is made from tomatoes grown in California which incorporate genes from other tomatoes to reduce their water content and make them more suitable for paste production.

Zeneca expects to receive European Union approval later this year with the first tins of

paste set to appear on supermarket shelves by the second half of next year. Zeneca is set to launch a disease-resistant banana in 2003.

Mr Pragnell said labelling of GM food was "essential" to reassure consumers that they were not being duped by the manufacturers.

He praised the government for its handling of the GM food crisis. He said: "I think the government has done well by proceeding very cautiously."

Victim left with fear of blacks awarded £600,000

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

AN ASIAN man who developed a paranoid fear of black people after he was viciously attacked was yesterday awarded nearly £600,000 in damages and told to go and live in a place where there are no blacks.

Mohibur Rahman, 30, was attacked in 1995 by two suspected drug dealers whom he had banned from the King's Cross branch of Burger King in cen-

tral London where he worked as manager.

Following the assault, he developed post traumatic stress disorder which showed itself in an "intense and wholly irrational dread of Afro-Caribbean people", the court heard.

The judge said he believed there would be a considerable improvement in Mr Rahman's condition if he lived in a less hostile environment. He lives in Battersea, south London.

"I've been painted a picture

of a man cowering in his home, afraid to venture forth in fear of meeting black people," he said.

Mr Rahman, he added, should go to an environment "where there are no black people or so few" that they presented a minimal risk of aggravating his phobia.

"Of all the places he should not live, I suggest that south London tops the list. It is a

multi-racial city but it is not possible to go for a five-minute walk or enter a couple of shops without seeing people of Afro-Caribbean origin.

He said that while on trips to Bangladesh and Scotland there had been a marked improvement in his condition.

"He owes it to his wife, he owes it to the next harmless West Indian he may assault in the

street, but most of all he owes it to himself."

The court heard that prior to the attack, in which boiling oil was splashed on his legs and he was kicked and punched, Mr Rahman had been a bright and sociable young man who had been head-hunted for the job.

But now he was unemployed and spent all his time in his flat in "alternating states of list-

lessness and terror." He also suffered from a severe depressive disorder which left him suicidal and, at one time, homicidal towards the surgeon who operated on him.

Mr Rahman had sued his employers, the franchise owner Ararose Ltd, for failing to take security measures which could have prevented the attack, and University College London

Hospitals NHS Trust for its later treatment of him.

He had frequently complained about trouble in the restaurant, which was a magnet for the area's drug dealers, prostitutes and drunks, but nothing had been done. The company, said the judge, was at fault in failing both to segregate the kitchen area and to install monitoring screens.

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Vasectomies failure victim loses in court

A MAN who fathered two daughters after two failed vasectomies was left with a huge legal bill yesterday after losing a negligence claim against the hospital which performed the operations.

John Pickett, 47, thought to be the first man to have had two "late failure" vasectomies – said he was "stunned and disappointed" after losing the case at Leeds High Court and having costs awarded against him. The costs are expected to amount to tens of thousands of pounds.

In a three-day hearing, Mr Pickett, 47, and his wife, Pauline, 41, said surgeons at St James's Hospital, Leeds, did not tell them there was a "remote" risk of the second vasectomy, carried out in 1982, failing. They opted for the second vasectomy after the first, in 1988, failed and Mrs Pickett gave birth to a daughter.

The couple, of Roundhay, Leeds, told the court that if they had realised there was still a risk of pregnancy they would have used additional contraception after the second operation.

Judge John Altman said that although he found the hospital had breached its duty of care by not giving them proper advice before the second vasectomy, it would not have made any difference. "They knew of the risk, they had been through it before and the real-

By LISA SALMON

ity is that it was not so much a matter of medical risks and probability which coloured their judgment as to what to do in relation to alternative contraceptive measures. It was a human decision that in effect it couldn't happen to them twice," he said. "It is quite clear to me that is what in the end reassured them to proceed."

He added: "There was a negligence act, but I also find that that negligence act made no difference whatsoever, either to their state of mind or their state of knowledge at the time."

The couple have six children, aged between four and 14, one of whom was adopted just before Mrs Pickett discovered she was pregnant after the first vasectomy.

She gave birth to a daughter, Louise-Charlotte, now seven, three years after the first operation and Emily, four, two years after the second vasectomy.

The court heard that the chance of late failure, where the patient becomes fertile after being given the all-clear in the months after surgery, was one in 2,000-3,000.

However, medical experts said there was no record of two late failures occurring anywhere in the world. Outside court, the couple said that



John and Pauline Pickett yesterday after losing their case at Leeds High Court and having costs awarded against them

Matthew Parris



Matthew Parris and 'Countdown's' Carol Vorderman

'Countdown' is faked, says Parris

MATTHEW PARRIS, the man who "outed" Peter Mandelson, has exposed another beloved national institution, the cult Channel 4 show *Countdown*.

The former Conservative MP yesterday unravelled the mystery of why the celebrity guest and resident sidekick in *Dictionary Corner* almost always unearth longer, more exotic words than any contestants. Obviously the dictionary helps, but so, Mr Parris reveals, does an earpiece connected to two wordsmiths off-camera.

Although principally worn to receive direction from the programme's production control box, the earpiece is also handy for relaying some of the English language's more extravagant bounties to grateful celebrities unable to think beyond four-letter words.

"They put in an earpiece," explained Mr Parris, "and from some control room somewhere suggested words are dictated to you. You can pick your own words if you want but I found the suggestion from the control came much faster. I was pleased with the help, as I would have been struggling without it. I used to wonder why the celebrities were so clever – and now I know."

On hand to haul out the celebrity are four people: Mark Nyman, a former world Scrabble champion and *Countdown* champion of champions; Michael Wylie, a former *Countdown* winner; Damien Eadie, another former *Countdown* champion of champions; and Susie Dent, of the Oxford University Press.

One sits at the guest's side, while the rest play the game in the control box and "prompt"

By RHYNS WILLIAMS

the celebrity. The programme's main contestants, of course, play unaided, as does Carol Vorderman in the mathematical segment of the show.

Mr Parris said he was not minded to raise the assistance with the show's producers afterwards. "Good heavens, no," he said. "It saved me from humiliation." A parliamentary sketch-writer for *The Times*, he is campaigning against TV producers he believes are misleading the public. It follows rows over faked documentaries and confessional talkshows on daytime TV that booked actors instead of real guests.

Mr Parris disclosed on BBC2's *Newsnight* that Mr Mandelson, former trade and industry secretary, was gay.

However, his disclosure about *Countdown*, which opened Channel 4's transmissions 17 years ago, marks his most daring outburst. *Countdown* is the network's most popular programme after *Brookside*, the combination of Ms Vorderman's arithmetical gymnastics and Mr Whiteley's bad jokes making it must-watch for students and pensioners.

"The point is that I don't think that it would ruin the show if the viewers were told about the help (celebrity guests get)," Mr Parris said. "It would be useful to let the audience know the difference between the really clever people and the apparently clever people. Overall though, *Countdown* was less rigged than some of the shows I have been on." A spokeswoman for the programme insisted there was no deception involved.

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Late airline blames the hurricanes

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST holiday airline, Britannia, suffered a large increase in flight delays last summer, according to figures released yesterday.

Almost one in five of the company's planes were more than an hour late - nearly double the figure from the summer of 1997, according to the report by the Air Transport Users Council. But, overall, the report found that delays to charter flights in and out of main UK

BY KATE WATSON-SMITH

airports last summer were about the same as in summer 1997, despite a seven per cent increase in flights. "Britannia has slipped badly and we are looking to the carrier to recover its position in the coming year," said an ATUC spokesman. A spokeswoman for Britannia blamed industrial action in Spain as well as Hurricane Mitch, which dev-

astated Honduras, for the increase in delays.

"Our operational performance during summer 1998 was affected by a number of different circumstances including the Spanish air traffic control strike, Greek industrial action and hurricanes - plus the increase in aircraft and international expansion," she said. She added that the airline had previously been a role model for other airlines and summer 1999 would be a top priority.

But it was not only Britannia which caused problems for travellers. Passengers with Air Europa also suffered severe delays, with a third of the airline's flights more than an hour late. The average delay was 57.54 minutes, putting it bottom of a table of 21 airlines compiled by the council.

The statistics relate to charter flights operating in and out of nine airports from April to October 1998, including Heathrow, Gatwick, Birmingham, Glasgow and Luton. To qualify for inclusion in the table, an airline had to operate at least 100 flights on 10 or more routes during the summer. The average delay last summer was 37.6 minutes compared with 37.5 minutes in 1997.

CHARTER AIRLINE DELAYS

Airline	Rank by % late	%age more than one hour late	Av. Delay (mins)	1998	1997
Flying Colours	1	3	5.33	8.33	
Pegasus	2	1	6.18	11.90	
British Airways	3	2	7.45	19.44	
Eurocypair Airlines	4	-	9.20	26.78	
Onur Air	5	11	11.13	26.05	
Airworld Aviation	6	23	13.28	28.39	
Monarch	7	8	14.15	32.07	
Air 2000	8	17	14.17	27.57	
Euroair Air Charter	9	10	14.97	38.75	
Transair	10	22	16.52	44.77	
British Midland	11	7	17.36	36.74	
Futura Airlines	12	12	17.74	37.44	
Britannia Airways	13	4	19.50	44.03	
Airtours	14	16	20.54	44.46	
Caledonian Airways	15	19	21.31	47.29	
Sabre Airways	16	20	21.66	49.13	
Leisure Int'n'l	17	14	22.27	48.89	
Brit World Airlines	18	15	24.73	47.98	
Spanair	19	6	25.18	53.11	
Viva	20	5	25.91	65.70	
Air Europa	21	13	30.79	57.54	



Alan Meale (centre) with his adopted elephant Flora (right) who he has had to declare in the register of members' interests, being held by keeper Stuart Cuthbert. They are joined by another elephant at the zoo, Flossie, with curator Derek Grove. John Reavenall

Minister of Zoos adopts Flora the elephant abuse victim

Key vote in Welsh contest

THE GMB union will today give a key pointer in the battle to choose Labour's leader in Wales.

Officials will reveal results of a branch consultation of its 64,000 members in Wales on whether it should back the Welsh Secretary, Alun Michael, or his backbench rival, Rhodri Morgan.

The GMB has 6.2 per cent of the overall vote and its support could be crucial if constituency parties, Welsh MPs and as-

sembly candidates are as evenly divided as predicted.

Mr Michael, the preferred choice of Tony Blair, is assured of the block votes of the transport and engineering unions, although Mr Morgan has the support of Unison, the only big union to conduct an individual ballot.

After a three-month campaign, union votes are being seen as crucial before the vic-

tor is declared in Cardiff tomorrow. Unions have a third of the overall vote, with MPs, assembly candidates and the party's 25,000 members in Wales also balloting as part of an electoral college. Opinion polls and ballots among smaller unions have been in favour of Mr Morgan, the Cardiff West MP, by about 3:1.

His team was buoyant yesterday after the Manufacturing, Science and Finance union backed him, the ninth to do so.

AN MP will be putting a new declaration in the register of members' interests to explain his gift of an elephant.

Dudley Meale, the Environment minister, has "adopted" Flora, an elephant that was rescued after a court heard that she was badly treated in a case involving Mary Chipperfield. But the cost of the first year of adoption is being given to Mr Meale as a gift - and so it will go onto the members' register of interests.

Mr Meale, who has responsibility for zoo licensing, was touched by the story of the female African elephant when he made a ministerial visit to

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

Dudley Zoo, West Midlands, where she is making a strong recovery.

He agreed to pay £60 a year to help with the cost of keeping Flora in return for being able to visit her with his family whenever he wishes, and a plaque is being put up outside her enclosure.

The minister has put up a certificate about Flora in his office at the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions, and will get regular bulletins on her condition - including on her birthday and at

Christmas." Peter Suddock, the chief executive of Dudley Zoo, said: "He came round with the local MP Ross Cranston (Labour, Dudley North) to have a look around the site to see the things we are doing for conservation and education.

"He is very keen on animal welfare and we thought it would be a nice touch to join the adoption scheme." Other people have adopted wildlife ranging from stick insects to lions.

Flora was one of the elephants named at Andover Magistrates Court in January when Mary Chipperfield and her husband, Roger Cawley,

were convicted of causing unnecessary suffering to animals. They will be sentenced on 9 April. The court heard Flora was forced to perform tricks when she was ill.

Mr Suddock said his zoo took the unusual step of buying Flora to avoid her going to a circus in Spain. A vets' report this week said she had made a "significant improvement" in her health.

She is being used at the zoo in helping to teach children the importance of protecting elephants in the wild in developing countries.

Mr Meale was given a note confirming that his first year's

"adoption" of Flora was a gift so that he could record it in the members' interests register, but in future years he will have to pay. His Department said: "It's a personal matter."

His boss, John Prescott, the Secretary of State at the Department, is also to be awarded a zoological gold medal, previously held by David Attenborough, for his contribution to the sustainable environment.

Chester Zoo, near to the village of Upton, where Mr Prescott grew up, is inviting him to accept the award later this year. They have a £1.8m investment from Jaguar Cars for their jaguar cubs project.

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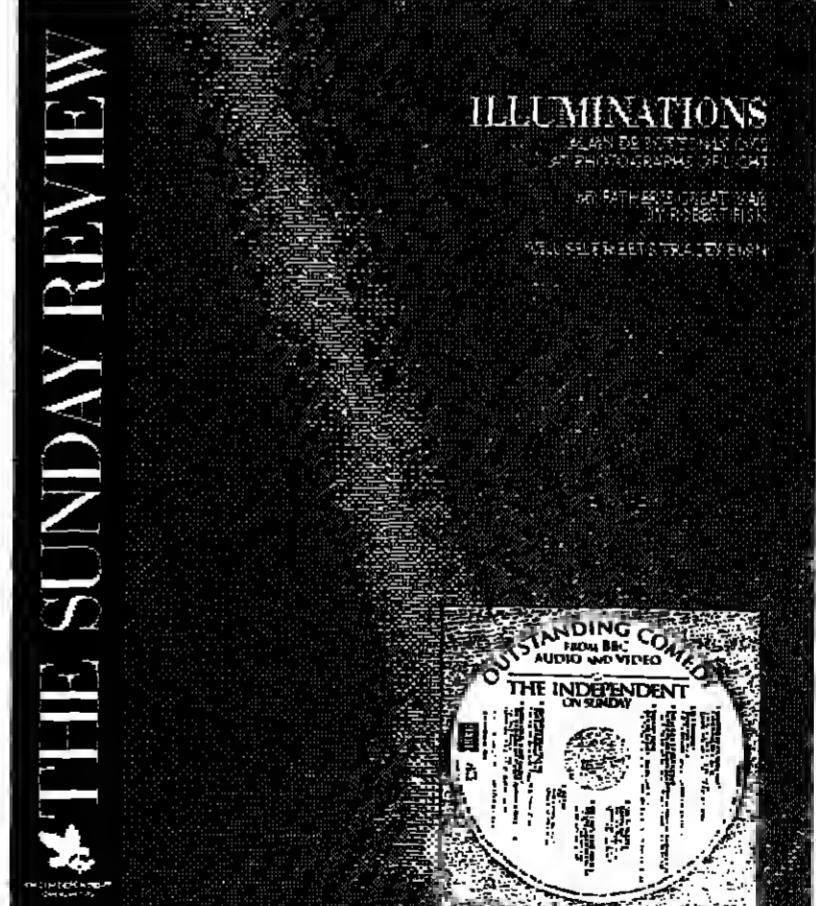
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Canals to be emergency water mains

By PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

BRITAIN'S DILAPIDATED canal network is to be used to relieve drought-prone areas by carrying water from parts of the country that have excessive rainfall.

British Waterways, the government agency that owns the 2,000-mile network, is already working on a pilot project with Thames Utilities, which supplies London and Berkshire, to supply 2 million litres a day by pumping water from Birmingham, which suffers from rising groundwater levels, down the Oxford canal. It already supplies half of the drinking water for Bristol from the Gloucester and Sharpness canal. This could be mirrored in other parts of the country.

British Waterways is looking at other joint ventures with privatised water companies.

The idea is being backed by the Government, which yesterday announced a package of measures to revitalise inland waterways, including the ability to seek private finance for joint initiatives.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, said he was increasing British Waterways' annual grant by £2m to £29m over the next three years.

He is determined to "unlock the potential of our waterways" to encourage more leisure use as well as exploiting the potential for "green" commuting and freight transport.

A British Waterways spokesman said: "The waterways have great potential for alleviating lack of water in some areas and the abundance of



John Prescott doing an impression of Kate Winslet in the film 'Titanic', as he announced new money for investment in the canal network

Tom Pilston

water in others. This is something we will be working on in the future."

A spokesman for the Department for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, for which Mr Prescott is also responsible, said: "The Government wants to see great use of facilities that are already there. A couple of years ago some areas suffered from drought and, with climate change, this could happen again. It makes sense to use what we have rather than dig big holes in the ground for reservoirs."

British Waterways said there was a £260m backlog of investment, of which £90m was for urgent safety work.

Speaking on a trip along London's Regents Canal from

King's Cross to Islington, Mr Prescott said: "For far too long canals have been regarded as a decaying relic of a bygone age. Over the years our waterways have been starved of

resources, saddled with debts and unable to develop their full potential. Now British Waterways can start to achieve that potential."

Bernard Henderson, British

Waterways chairman, added: "We are delighted the Government shares our belief in their future and our desire to achieve much more for them." He said that by working in partnership

with councils and private companies it would be able to restore the waterways and encourage greater leisure activities.

Canals currently carry 3

million tonnes of freight a year, including a large contract to supply coal to Ferrybridge power station on the Aire and Calder canal, west Yorkshire. In its heyday, before the advent of

the steam locomotive, the network carried 30 million tonnes of freight a year.

British Waterways said it would work with local authorities to apply for grants to develop certain stretches of canal in inner cities as commuter links to encourage car drivers to use their bikes along towpaths instead. But it stressed its main focus was on leisure uses, such as walking and fishing. Britain's canal and waterways are regularly used by 10 million visitors a year.

Mr Henderson said: "The inland waterways already benefit the lives and work of millions, but their rich potential has been limited by underfunding."

He said British Waterways was also looking at developing a National Trust-style membership organisation.

Half of the population lives within five miles of an inland waterway. Birmingham is known as "Venice of the North" because of its network. Manchester's canal, featured in a popular advert for Boddingtons, a local beer, which featured a Venetian gondola.

One in ten are victims of car crime

By PHILIP THORNTON

ONE IN 10 people was the victim of car crime last year, according to a survey that reveals an increase in thefts and break-ins. The figure compared with 9 per cent in a similar study a year ago. The survey, published yesterday, found that car crime was the lowest in the South, where 3 per cent said they had been victims, while the highest was in Lancashire.

Of those questioned, 5 per cent had had their car broken into in the past 12 months, doubling to 10 per cent in the 25-to-34 age group. The survey, published as the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, urged people to intervene when they saw crime being committed, will come as a blow to the authorities. The Home Office's British Crime Survey recorded a fall of 27 per cent in thefts of vehicles and a fall of 25 per cent in attempted thefts or break-ins between 1995 and 1997.

The survey by the British Vehicle Rental and Leasing Association (BVRLA) found that those most in fear of car crime were youngsters who tended to drive older and less secure vehicles. Almost half those aged 17 to 24 (48 per cent) feared becoming the victim of car crime. This compared with 15 per cent of those over 55. Concern was highest in the North-east (41 per cent) and Lancashire (37 per cent).

The survey also found that 92 per cent believed manufacturers should be doing more to improve vehicle security, compared with 89 per cent in the previous survey. Freddie Aldous, BVRLA president, said: "While the UK



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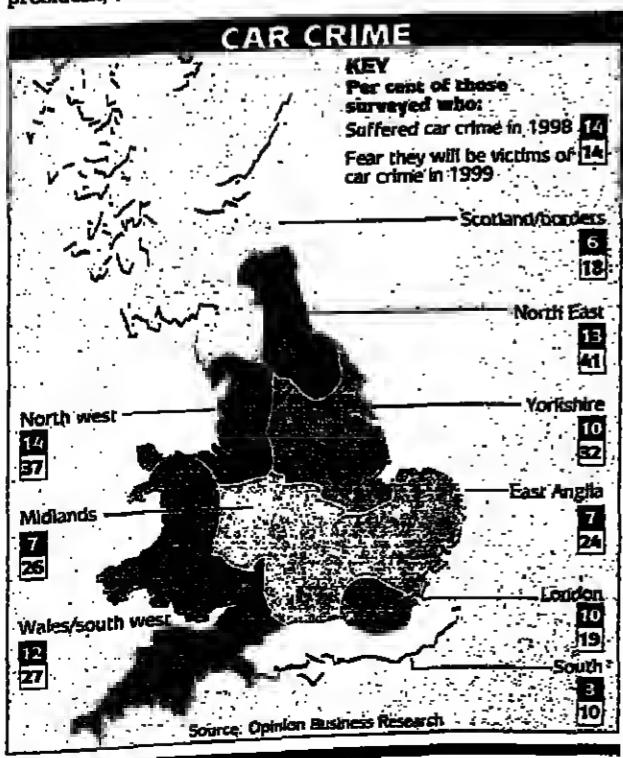
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Full alert as jets mobilise for Serbia

NATO GEARED up to attack Serbia yesterday if peace talks over Kosovo fail, sending another 51 aircraft to Europe in advance of air strikes.

British embassy staff in the Serbian capital, Belgrade, began preparing to leave after the Foreign Office told non-essential staff to quit the country.

In Washington, the State Department said United States embassy personnel in Serbia would also be evacuated.

With the deadline looming, the British and French foreign ministers appealed directly to the Serbian public to accept the peace accord. Any decision would have "far-reaching consequences for you, your country and the whole of Europe", the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, and his French counterpart, Hubert Vedrine, said in a joint statement.

The US said it had ordered the deployment of aircraft, including 12 F117 Nighthawk stealth fighters, "to assure that NATO has the capability to conduct operations should that prove necessary".

In the Macedonian capital Skopje, NATO's secretary-general, Javier Solana, warned that the alliance was ready to

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

strike immediately if the deadline for a peace deal on Kosovo of noon tomorrow is not reached. "It would be very soon," he told a press conference, "if an agreement is not reached, if the negotiations fail, NATO knows very well what to do." As negotiations on Kosovo's future dragged on at Ramboillet in France, the NATO threat appeared intended to boost the talks rather than signal an imminent attack.

Representatives of Kosovo's Albanian majority are demanding a referendum on independence from Serbia, while the Serbs are resisting demands from the big powers for a 30,000 NATO peace-keeping force to be deployed in the province.

Serbia's President Milan Milutinovic was due to return to the talks yesterday, giving rise to hopes that progress might still be possible. The US peace envoy, Christopher Hill, visited Belgrade on Tuesday to inject some energy into the process. NATO's ruling North Atlantic Council meets today to discuss the looming crisis. NATO issued an activation order for its

forces last year, which is still in action. This allows Mr Solana to press the button whenever he wants, though in practice any decision would need the agreement of NATO's 16 members in particular.

Despite the order for British diplomats to leave Serbia there was no sign yesterday of a plan to evacuate the 1,200 monitors in the country from the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

There is already a French-led extraction force in Macedonia to help the monitors if necessary. Britain, Italy and France will also provide aircraft if strikes happen. Operation Noble Anvil, as the NATO action is designated, would involve hundreds of aircraft, the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise, B-52 and B-2 bombers.

If the alliance does launch strikes, it risks a confrontation with Moscow. The Russian President, Boris Yeltsin, said yesterday that he had told the Americans he would not permit air strikes on Russia's Serb ally.

"I conveyed to Clinton my view, both by phone and by letter, that this will not work," he said. The US, however, said President Bill Clinton and President Yeltsin had not spoken.



Racist tattoos worn by accused

BY MICHAEL GRACZYK
in Jasper, Texas

RACIST AND satanic tattoos on a man accused of dragging a black man to his death were intended to help the defendant survive in prison, it was claimed yesterday.

Rich Ford, a Jasper police officer, acknowledged that the symbols on John William King's skin could be interpreted in different ways. "Some may have expression of love and some of hate," he said.

But he acknowledged motivation for the tattoos could be meant to intimidate other inmates who might prey on a white man in jail who was 5ft 7in (1.52m) tall.

"It's in the eye of the beholder," Brack Jones, for the defence, told him. Mr Ford agreed.

Mr King is accused of murdering James Byrd Jr last year by chaining him to the back of a pickup truck and dragging him for nearly three miles along a bumpy asphalt road, dismembering his body. If convicted, he could face the death penalty.

Two other men, Lawrence Brewer, 31, and Shawn Berry, 23, also are charged and are to be tried later.

Prosecutors are portraying Mr King as so hateful he proudly adorned his body with dozens of racist, satanic tattoos. He obtained most of them while he was in prison for a burglary conviction.

One depicts the lynching of a black man while others show Nazi-type SS lightning bolts, a satanic star and the sign of a white supremacist group and the words "Aryan Pride".

"Obviously you can't commit a crime this heinous unless you've got a lot of hate and anger in your heart," Guy James Gray, for the prosecution, said on Wednesday.

"Devils and monster faces and skulls and things like that are pretty consistent with somebody having a lot of hate in their heart."

Mr King's lawyers had objected to photographs of the tattoos, saying the art was constitutionally protected as freedom of expression. Their objections were overruled.

Lawyers will inhibit Lewinsky in her TV interviews

AMERICANS COULD see the long-promised interview with Monica Lewinsky on or before 3 March, if negotiations between ABC Television, Ms Lewinsky's lawyers and the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr, are successful.

But restrictions on what she may say could leave basic questions unanswered. The interview, to be conducted by Barbara Walters, doyenne of US interviewers, is planned to

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

begin a whirlwind of public exposure for the 25-year-old whose White House liaison nearly toppled the President.

The book, *Monica's Story*, written by Princess Diana's biographer, Andrew Morton, is out in the US on 5 March, then Ms Lewinsky visits Britain for an interview with Jon Snow on Channel 4. After that she goes

to Norway. Ms Lewinsky is in effect under a "gag" order from Kenneth Starr, with whom she negotiated her immunity from prosecution last summer.

The terms of that agreement, which waived her liability to prosecution for perjury in return for her detailed account of her relationship with President Clinton, also prohibited her from saying anything to the media without his permission. The ban remained through

the congressional proceedings that culminated in the President's acquittal last week. Her lawyers had submitted a formal request to lift it two weeks ago, when the Senate voted that she would not be summoned for further questioning, but the ban remained in force. Mr Starr's office is believed to be concerned that nothing Ms Lewinsky says will affect investigations still in progress.

These include the case of Julie Hiett Steele, a one-time friend of the White House volunteer Kathleen Willey, who accused Mr Clinton of groping her.

The Willey case is the closest Mr Starr has come to unearthing evidence of possible witness intimidation by the White House.

Though thousands of pages of evidence were released by Congress from the Starr investigation into the Lewinsky

case, the bulk remains under seal, reportedly containing even more salacious parts of Ms Lewinsky's relationship with Mr Clinton, details of White House security, and information about other, so far unidentified women who may have been involved with Mr Clinton.

Ms Lewinsky's lawyers are concerned that she does not contradict the account she has given under oath, because this would arouse suspicions that she did not tell the whole truth and would endanger her immunity agreement.

ABC wants to air the interview on 3 March, because that date is used to calculate ratings across US television. An interview with Linda Tripp, the woman who secretly taped Ms Lewinsky's confessions and passed the tapes to Mr Starr, gave CNN its highest figure this year - 2.5m viewers, double the average for February 1998.

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Siege ends, hands and heads held high

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE
AND JOHN DAVISON

THEY CAME out one by one, their hands held high above their heads and with a photocopied portrait of their revered leader, Abdullah Ocalan, taped to their chests. Slowly and defiantly the 77 Kurds stepped single file into the broad, tree-lined West London avenue. There they were met by the police who had surrounded them for the past three days. They were in no rush.

The occupation of the Greek embassy in London ended shortly after 2pm yesterday, an hour after those inside said they were going to come out. It was calm, dignified, and crucially, given the experiences elsewhere in Europe in the past 48 hours, it was peaceful.

There were no guns, no police dogs, no SAS. The fears that those inside the building would rather die by their own hands than allow themselves to be taken into custody proved not to be the case. "They have highlighted the situation of the Kurds and made the world look," said one Kurdish protester in the street. "They have done their job."

The first sign that yesterday would be the day when the embassy occupiers would give up came early in the morning when one of them told a news organisation they were going to leave at 1pm, after making a statement to the media at noon. The noon deadline came and went with no statement, and no sign of anyone getting ready to leave the building. But 90 min-



The end of the Greek Embassy siege. Kurdish demonstrators are led away under arrest by police after surrendering



Peter Macdiarmid

utes later there was a flurry of action in the street outside.

In moments, scores of police in riot gear moved towards the entrance and fanned out across the road. Behind them, a row of police coaches were made ready to take people away. At around 2.05 there was

movement from the front of the embassy as a man was led away. This was Babis Patsouris, the Greek caretaker at the embassy who was taken hostage by the Kurds when they stormed the building in the early hours on Tuesday morning. There was a pause before

the first of the Kurds then stepped from the building. He was followed by four others. There was another pause and then the rest came out.

They were met by police officers, two to each protester, who cautioned them, arrested them, searched them for

weapons and fastened their hands with plastic handcuffs. Their lawyer, the human rights specialist Gareth Peirce, liaised between the police and the Kurds. As they were driven away some raised their hands in the victory salute while others appeared close to tears. All

looked exhausted. They were taken to Charing Cross police station where they were charged under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

It emerged that their release had been secured by behind-the-scenes negotiations between Kurds both inside and

outside the embassy, the police and a group of politicians including the Labour peer, Lord Rea, and Ann Clwyd MP, chair of the parliamentary human rights group. They were also joined by Dr Haluk Gerger, a Turkish historian and Kurd sympathiser. "They were very

dignified when they came out," said Ms Clwyd.

She added: "I would not condone the siege of an embassy but I have known the Kurds for a long time and I know their situation in Turkey."

Ms Clwyd revealed that the delay in leaving the embassy had been caused by confusion over whether the occupiers would be charged when they came out. Demonstrators outside the building wanted a guarantee that those inside would not be charged. Realistically this was never going to happen. While police were unlikely to storm the building as long as there was little chance of the protesters either harming themselves or Mr Patsouris, there was never any talk of an amnesty.

Sir Paul Condon, Metropolitan Police Commissioner, said the tense situation could continue for weeks or even months.

"We are on our guard about other things that could happen in London, and we have taken some prudent precautions," he said. "Clearly the way this has been co-ordinated throughout Europe and elsewhere it is a significant, ongoing international situation."

The prospect of charges being levelled against their fellow countrymen did not please the 500 protesters near the embassy last night. "This is not over. We are not going away until the charges against these people are dropped," said Zame Hogir, a spokesman for the Kurdish Information Centre. "I think it is time for the British government to intervene."

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Angry Ocalan humiliated by Turkey

AS THOUSANDS of Turkish troops poured into neighbouring Iraq to hunt Kurdish rebels yesterday, Turkish television showed more humiliating video footage of the captured Kurdish leader Abdullah Ocalan.

Images released by the Turkish general staff showed the chief of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) in a hood, being led to a high-security island prison in the Sea of Marmara after all other prisoners were removed. He was between two Turkish national flags, an image designed to delight Turks as much as it humiliates the Kurds.

In Ankara, the prime minister, Mr Bülent Ecevit, said the trial of Mr Ocalan would begin soon. The justice ministry said it would be held on the island, most likely to avoid any chance of his PKK supporters attempting a jailbreak.

His interrogation is believed to have begun, with growing world pressure on Turkey to avoid the torture routinely used by the military. Sources say Mr Ocalan could be tried by a state security court, which also includes military judges.

The prospect of a military involvement in Mr Ocalan's trial will deepen international concern over whether the PKK leader can expect a fair hearing. His Dutch lawyer was refused entry to Turkey and the European human rights court has questioned the credentials of Turkish security courts.

Mr Ecevit suggested yesterday that the PKK fighters might now like to surrender. "The capture of the chief terrorist has created an opportunity for the deceived young people of the mountains," he said. "If many young people surrender, our people and the par-

BY JUSTIN HUGGLER
in Istanbul

liament will embrace them". Turkey's systematic mistreatment of PKK activists means that few are likely to take up the offer.

But Turkish police were reported to be rounding up hundreds of Kurdish activists in the country, after violent protests over the Mr Ocalan's capture.

Police detained Ocalan supporters in Istanbul after vehicles were torched in hit-and-run attacks. A petrol bomb was hurled under a bus belonging to Mr Ecevit's Democratic Left Party but failed to detonate.

Human rights activists said 700 Kurds had been held in Istanbul and south-eastern cities.

The Turkish government holds Mr Ocalan responsible for the deaths of more than 37,000 people in the 15-year war in the south-east between the army and the PKK he founded.

His Kurdish rebel bases in northern Iraq are the targets of the 4,000 Turkish troops backed by air support, who advanced over the border town of Cukurca into the mountainous Kurdish region, which is outside Baghdad's control.

Turkish leaders insisted that the operation was planned before Mr Ocalan's capture in Kenya.

Turkey has made frequent incursions into Iraq to attack the PKK. The semi-official Anatolia News Agency reported that yesterday's operation was assisted by guerrillas of Massoud Barzani's Iraq-based Kurdistan Democratic Party.

The Iraqi Kurds depend on Turkish goodwill for their lucrative oil-smuggling business. Turkey is also the base for

US and British aircraft patrolling the northern "no fly zone", which protects Iraqi Kurds from the Iraqi President, Saddam Hussein.

■ Kenya fired its top immigration official, Frank Kwinga, yesterday, after he said that Kenya had played an active role in throwing Mr Ocalan out of the country.

Mr Kwinga said that Kenyan officials had physically put Mr Ocalan on a flight out of Kenya on Monday. Hours later he landed in Turkey.

The government had said that Greek officials put Mr Ocalan on the plane and that Kenya would not have approved his transfer to Turkey.

Abdullah Ocalan, the Kurdish leader, between two Turkish flags at a prison in the Sea of Marmara

Activists warned by Bonn

BY IMRE KARACS
in Berlin

KURDS in Germany turned their fury on the Turkish community yesterday as the government in Bonn vowed to clamp down on the outlawed Kurdish Workers Party and deport activists.

A day after the shooting at the Israeli Consulate in Berlin, police issued arrest warrants for 28 demonstrators as the navel and opposition parties demanded draconian measures and mass expulsions.

The tougher line was in evidence yesterday, police in Berlin banning a procession in memory of the three Kurds shot dead on Wednesday.

In Bremen, a Turkish travel agency was fire-bombed. In Munster, masked Kurdish youths raided a Turkish teashop, while in Heilbronn the patrons of a Turkish club were attacked by a Kurdish gang armed with baseball bats. Four Turks were injured.



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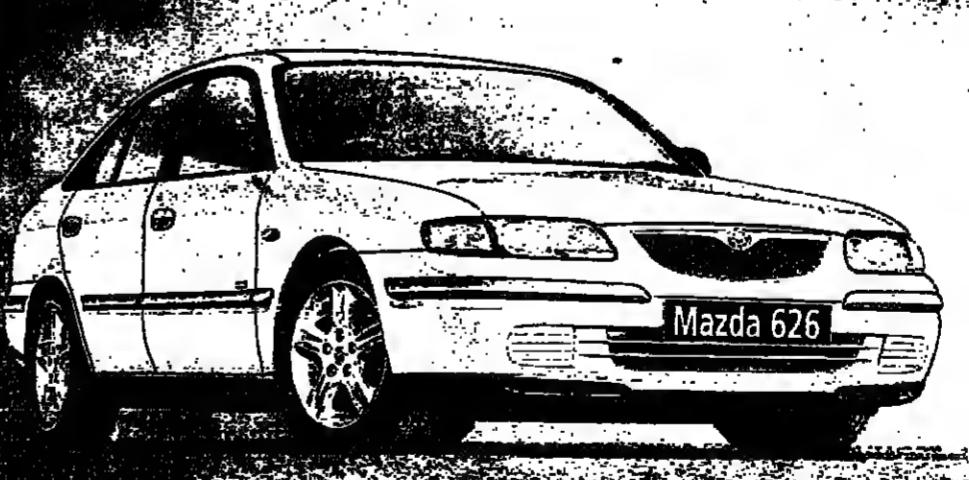
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Top footballer's father kidnapped

BY PHIL DAVISON

Latin America Correspondent

THE FATHER of Mexico's best-known footballer, Jorge Campos, pioneer of flamboyant goalkeepers' jerseys, has been kidnapped in the tourist resort of Acapulco. It was the latest in a wave of abductions that has swept Mexico over the past two years, making it one of the most dangerous places in the world to be rich or famous.

Police sources said left-wing guerrillas, who operate in the mountains above the resort

and often finance themselves through kidnappings, may have been behind the abduction of Alvaro Campos. The guerrillas, from the Popular Revolutionary Army (EPR), emerged three years ago as "defenders of the poor" after a massacre of peasants by police, but they have returned to similar movements from the Sixties.

Witnesses said the men

were not masked but no one recognised them. Members of the Campos family confirmed the kidnapping and said they feared for Mr Campos's life. They said they had so far had no contact with the kidnappers but were expecting to hear from them soon. They declined to say whether they would consider any ransom.

Jorge Campos, Mexico's top

goalkeeper for several years who has also played as a striker for top clubs, became best

known for his electrifyingly coloured jerseys, shocking then but almost the norm now. He currently plays for the Chicago Fire in the United States' Major Soccer League as well as a Mexican side during the US off-season.

Friends said he was in Hong Kong for a tournament with the Mexican national side but rushed to Acapulco as soon as he heard the news.

Hundreds of people are ab-

duted each year in Mexico, including relatives of television stars, musicians or other celebrities. The son of one of the country's top ranchero ballad singers, Vicente Fernandez, was released last September after four months in captivity. His family, which reportedly paid several million dollars for his freedom, kept the kidnapping secret until he was free, often a condition laid down by the criminals.

■ Luis Reina Corbalan, a 60-year-old lawyer from Argentina, and son-in-law of Italy's last king, was found naked and strangled on Wednesday, with the belt of his bathrobe round his neck, in the bedroom of his luxury villa in the Mexican tourist town of Cuernavaca. His chauffeur, Juan Manuel Barrera, said he had discovered the body after arriving for work.

Mr Reina was married to

Princess Marie Beatrice of

Savoy, whose father was Italy's last king, Umberto II, before Italy was declared a republic soon after the Second World War. Umberto II had ruled for only one month after the abdication of his father, Victor Emmanuel III, in 1946.

Mr Reina, once an Argentinian diplomat to the United Nations, practised as a lawyer in Mexico and was also a law lecturer at the Autonomous University of Morelos.

Eritreans wait in fear for Goliath's air strikes

BY LUCY HANNAN
in Assab

THE REPEATED, ground-shaking thump of Ethiopian bombs comes from more than 10 miles outside the city of Assab. But the residents of Eritrea's main port, on the Red Sea coast, take little comfort from the distance. One hit on the water system would wreck the city's only supply.

During a night attack on Tuesday, jeeploads of Eritreans rushed into the desert to find large bomb craters near Assab's underground reservoir. Still burning, the powerful incendiary bombs have so far missed the pump house.

There is an atmosphere of siege. With the port, the oil refinery and all overland trade at a standstill, Assab is the most isolated – and strategically important – target in the war in the Horn of Africa between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

"I can put on my radio and know what is going on in the rest of the world, but I have no idea what is happening in Eritrea," one resident said.

Until it was connected to a satellite link this week, Assab had been without telecommunications for eight months after Ethiopia cut off the telephones.



An Eritrean family waiting for a flight out of Assab to the capital, Asmara. Ethiopian bombing has given the port an atmosphere of siege

Amr Nabil/AFP

This week the conflict took a new twist when Assab became the target of Ethiopia's fighter jets and Antonov planes, which fly high over the front-line defence about 70km west of the city. The port remains untouched, heavily defended by anti-aircraft guns and tanks.

An Ethiopian helicopter shot

down last Sunday lies near the trenches that weave along the desert ridge at the border. The

pilot's charred body remains in the wreckage; the other crew members have been incinerated. They do not deserve burial, says Colonel Alem Seged, who

was Badme, but now Ethiopia wants to annex the port," says Tesfai Tewolde, vice-chairman of Eritrean Shipping Lines. He says he is waiting for peace for business to start up again.

Assab, once a major transit

station for cargo ships calling at the Red Sea ports in Yemen

and Dubai, has been reduced to servicing only four ships a month. More than 90 per cent

of its business was lost when Ethiopia boycotted the port over a currency and access issue last March, and started using neighbouring Djibouti instead.

About 20,000 Ethiopian workers left, bars closed, and the machinery at the dock stands idle.

A once cosmopolitan trucking

town has become a military

city. Land cruisers camouflaged

with tar and mud race the empty streets, and soldiers in fatigues fill the pavements. Hungry for custom, supermarkets depend on supplying the military with pasta, tinned fish, tomato paste and jam.

The city's remaining

Ethiopians run some of the surviving businesses, but tension over the recent battles

has made them fearful. The mil-

itary seized about 10 Ethiopian businessmen after the bombing raids started this week. "They think some of us are informers," one Ethiopian man said.

It is a curious feature of this

war that Ethiopians have gen-

erally been allowed to continue

a normal life in Eritrea, while

Ethiopia has deported 52,000 Eritreans. Most were driven to the

border and made to walk with

their few possessions across the no-man's land between the two countries. Idle cargo ships in Assab were turned into passenger vessels, shipping 1,500 at a time to ports in Massawa, further north.

In December and January

alone, more than 25,000 deportees passed through Assab, many of whom had been born in Ethiopia.

First Active Making money work...

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BRIEFING

BUSINESS

William Hill float shunned by investors

Nomura denies London layoffs

THE INVESTMENT bank, Nomura International, last night denied reports of planned heavy redundancies at its London offices. The speculation was sparked by Wednesday's announcement that Nomura's chief economist, Bronwyn Curtis, had resigned, and the disclosure yesterday that three of her staff had been made redundant.

A spokeswoman for Nomura International, which has 1,300 City employees, said: "There is no wholesale letting go of people, and there is nothing planned at the moment." But she added: "We never say never." The spokeswoman admitted that two economists in Ms Curtis's department - Michael Derkis and James Mitchell - and a junior member of support staff had been made redundant. A total of 70 staff had been let go between September and December.

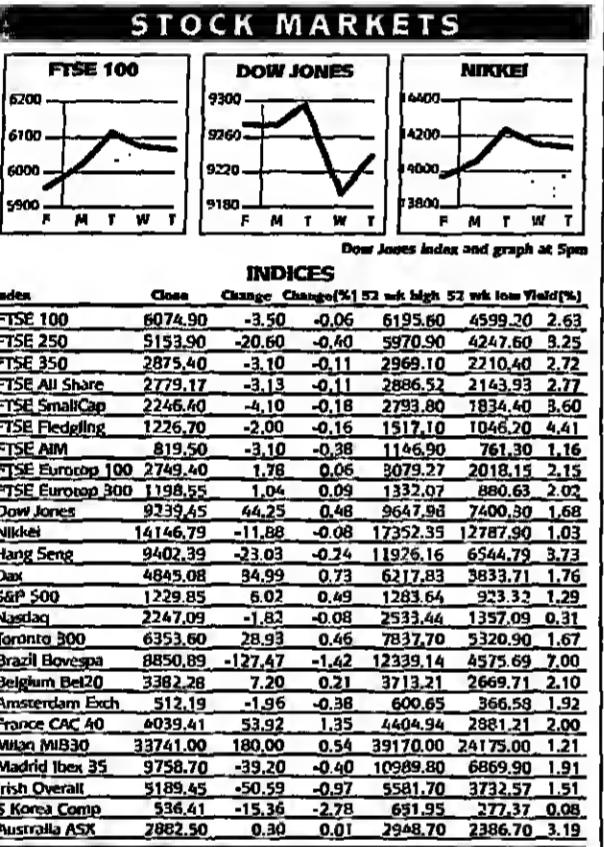
News Corp in attack on costs

 NEWS CORPORATION, the media conglomerate run by Rupert Murdoch, has set a target of cutting 3 per cent off operating costs across all businesses. Lachlan Murdoch, appointed senior executive vice-president of News Corp last week and favourite to succeed his father, will be in charge of implementing the programme.

The cuts will affect all News Corp's businesses, including the *Times* and *Sun* newspapers, Fox Broadcasting and HarperCollins. In the quarter to December, News Corp's profits after exceptional costs slid to \$395m (£240m) from \$396m in the period in 1997.

Abbey launches euro mortgage

ABBEY NATIONAL yesterday launched a euro mortgage for UK customers at a variable interest rate of 4.57 per cent directly linked to euro money markets. The euro rate is set at Europlus plus 1.5 per cent and is reviewed quarterly. The mortgage is available only to customers paid in euros, or in currencies fixed against the euro, up to a maximum loan value of 70 per cent. There is a £500 booking fee.



THE FLOTATION of William Hill, Britain's second-largest bookmaker, experienced an embarrassing stumble at the final hurdle yesterday when it was forced to cut the price of the offer due to weak institutional demand.

The price of the shares has been cut to 135p, well below the expected range of 155p-175p. The reduction values the business at just £455m, or £78m including debts. This compares with previous forecasts of £900m. The price cut means

BY NIGEL COPE AND FRANCESCO GUERRERA

that Nomura, the Japanese securities group which paid £270m for the business less than two years ago, will make a profit of just £20m on the deal, excluding expenses, compared with previous estimates of almost £200m.

The flop of the float will be a blow to the new issues market which is only just finding its feet again after the huge volatility in stock markets last year led

to a buyers' strike among investors.

The poor response to the bookbuilding exercise undertaken by financial advisers Warburg Dillon Reed was attributed to a lack of demand for anything other than large, blue chip stocks.

However, institutions who spurned the offer said the presentations by the William Hill management team had been "pretty unconvincing". One said: "They did not seem very clear on the reason they wanted

to list. One was left with the impression that it was because Nomura wanted to sell having decided they were not going to make much more progress."

Another fund manager said:

"William Hill as a business is not desperately exciting. They had a good period on the back of the World Cup but where is future growth to come from?"

There were also suggestions yesterday that William Hill, which last year had sales of around £1.5bn, has experienced poor trading in the past few

months. This period was not included in the group's listing particulars which revealed operating profits of £75.2m in the 39 weeks to 29 September. The company denied a slump in trading yesterday.

During the flotation process William Hill has focused on its strong brand name and reliable earnings outlook from betting and gaming. However a sharp fall in consumer spending in the past few months may have taken its toll in a market that is traditionally less exposed to

the vagaries of discretionary spending.

The price cut may be a blow to smaller investors whose allocation was last week doubled to 20 per cent of the capital. They had to subscribe to a minimum of £1,000 in shares and it is thought that many subscribed for more because they thought their holding would be scaled back due to strong demand. Now they will be buying more shares than they expected.

Deals in the stock are due to start on 1 March.

Halifax to make £1.5bn handout

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

THE HALIFAX yesterday announced plans for a capital reconstruction that will enable it to hand £1.5bn - roughly half its surplus capital - to shareholders while keeping its powder dry for further selective acquisitions in its core mortgage market. The move means its 3.6 million ordinary shareholders will receive an average payout of £217 in June.

Jim Crosby, who took over from Mike Blackburn as chief executive last year, said the reconstruction would allow the group to "up the pace" at which it returned capital to shareholders, while providing a structure letting the group

priority should be the "vigorous development of the brand, coupled with a tight control of costs". Growth in operating expenses will be held at 3 per cent over the next two years.

Nothing should be ruled out, he said, but any deals would have to satisfy three criteria. "They should not weaken our resolve to develop our personal finance business; they should not inhibit our ability to build the Halifax brand; and we have to ask ourselves, do we really believe that the synergies being claimed can be delivered without damaging the business." He said: "These are not easy hurdles."

Mr Crosby said Halifax was setting a target of reducing its tier one capital ratio from 12.2 per cent to the 7 to 8 per cent range common to most banks within "two to three years".

The group would be seeking authorisation for further share buybacks. However, he said the preferred route was to get to that target "first and foremost by acquisitions". The group would be interested in picking up other mortgage lenders as and when they came available. However, he said none were available at the moment.

In the reconstruction, shareholders are to be given shares in a new holding company to be created above Halifax plc, on the basis of 37 new shares for each 40 existing Halifax shares currently held, together with 62p per share in cash.

The £750m returned to shareholders last year by buying in shares in the market was not only the largest-ever operation of the kind, but it left the bulk of Halifax shareholders out in the cold.

Mr Crosby insisted that the reduction in capital in no way comprised the group's ability to grow by acquisition. However, the capital repayment removes the immediate pressure from the City for Halifax to enter into a more far-reaching merger with a similar-sized clearing bank or insurance group.

Over the past year Halifax has been linked with Barclays Bank, the Prudential and Royal Bank of Scotland.

Mr Crosby, who was speaking for the first time in the City since becoming chief executive, insisted that the group had the strongest brand in financial services in the UK and that the

rumour was not terribly good," said Rob Thomas at Warburg Dillon Reed.

"The market tends to have a knee-jerk reaction to things like buybacks, but the numbers were not terribly good," said Rob Thomas at Warburg Dillon Reed.

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There is life after Zantac for Glaxo

ABOUT FIFTEEN years ago, the City editor of this newspaper undertook an interview with Sir Paul Girod, then chairman and chief executive of Glaxo. An anti-stomach ulcer drug called Zantac was about to be launched onto the US market. Even then it was clear that this product had vast potential and that by extension, Glaxo shares were a



OUTLOOK

meantime Glaxo has been working hard at putting its eggs in different baskets, so as to cushion earnings from expiry of patents on these two products.

Plainly, the strategy has worked. Despite what Glaxo's chairman, Sir Richard Sykes, calls an "unbelievable year" in which the patents expired on both its wonder drugs, Glaxo has kept sales moving ahead and profits haven't collapsed. Sales of non-Zantac and Zovirax products now account for 86 per cent of the total. Sales have also been bolstered by new developments, such

as aggressive TV advertising in the US. Growth from new products is so encouraging that Sir Richard can now afford to match the promise of double-digit sales and earnings growth made by his arch-rival Ian Leshchy, head of SmithKline Beecham.

Since there is no new Zantac or Zovirax in the pipeline, growth will in future have to come from a wider range of drugs, particularly in the respiratory and HIV franchises. It would obviously be unrealistic to expect the Glaxo Wellcome share price to continue outperforming in the way it has, but if new products maintain their early promise, the post-Zantac era looks like being just as successful as the one that went before.

Gucci rumpus

QUESTION. Which country has the most heavily regulated financial markets in the world? To believe the scare stories and comment in some of our rivals, you might think it is the UK with its new Financial Services

Authority - depicted by some as a bureaucratic monster destined to sink the City under a mountain of red tape and oppressive rule-making.

But actually it is the United States, land of the free, where literally tens of thousands of people find gainful employment crawling all over any financial transaction that moves. On top of them there is an even larger army of busy bodies ensuring that their organisations comply with the rules. And on top of them there is a whole platoon of lawyers, whose job it is to safeguard the interests of paying clients by ensuring that others abide by the rules. In the UK we try our hardest, but when it comes to regulation, we've got nothing on the US.

The same point might be made about hostile takeovers. The easiest place in the world to make a hostile takeover bid is not, perhaps surprisingly given its free market rhetoric, the United States, but the UK. In the US it has become virtually impossible to make hostile bids. Highly effective poison-pill arrangements that would be regarded as a

gross infringement of shareholder rights in this country abound in the US, as they do almost everywhere apart from here; those that don't have them can buy them off the shelf.

Meanwhile, deep in the air-brushed, "darling you look wonderful" world of the designer handbags and £100 scarfs things have turned ugly.

LVMH has been accused of "takeover by stealth" after its chairman Bernard Arnault built a 34 per cent stake in Gucci with no suggestion that he would make a full bid. Yesterday Gucci put the designer boot in by issuing a thumping 37 million new shares, diluting Arnault out of sight and pledging to issue more if he increases his stake.

It's a catwalk stand-off.

None of this could happen here, but Gucci is quoted in Amsterdam and New York - not Britain. In Holland there are no "trigger rules" which force a predator to make an offer for the entire share capital once the stake goes over 29 per cent. Instead the Dutch allow companies to defend themselves by issuing new

shares which dilute the predator's voting rights. Sacre bleu!

If it didn't come from Bernard Arnault, this expression of outrage might carry a little more weight. Mr Arnault has made a habit of trying to garner control of businesses without paying for the whole lot. The idea is to use a powerful minority position to put his placemen on the board and have an input on strategy at arms length.

That is exactly what he was suggesting at Gucci, where he was nominating three new directors and some "commercial proposals" for the board to consider. As with the Guiness-Grand Metropolitan deal, which Mr Arnault tried to block, all this is only heading in one direction. To the courts. Thank goodness for Britain's quaint old system of Takeover Panel and Code.

Halifax largest

A YEAR ago, Jon Foulds, the Halifax chairman, was telling the City not to worry, because within twelve months there would be a big deal to

earn some fees on. Twelve months later, with his 67th birthday approaching and after apparently talking to everyone in sight, from the Royal Bank of Scotland to Barclays and the Prudential, it appears he has finally given up on dreams of empire and resigned himself in the more useful but undoubtedly less exciting task of keeping shareholders sweet.

To that end, clever old Halifax has come up with a wizard wheeze for shrinking the group's capital twice as rapidly as the old fashioned method of buying back shares, thereby halving the period during which it will have to put up with those irritating questions about what it might do with its surplus cash.

As a way of propping up the share price, buying back shares has proved to be rather less effective than investment bankers claimed it would be. The effect on the share price has been short-lived, and because Halifax's share register is still dominated by a legion of small holders, it has also been difficult to do on the kind of scale the Halifax needs if it is to fix its surpluse capital problem anytime soon.



Joachim Milberg: The UK Rover plant must show 'presentable results' by spring

BMW chief sets a deadline for Rover

BMW'S NEW chairman has spoken for the first time of his plans for Germany's third biggest car maker, saying that the Longbridge Rover plant in the UK needs to show "presentable results" by spring. He also dismissed recent takeover speculation as "without foundation".

Professor Joachim Milberg, chairman of the board of management of the German car giant, told its employee newsletter *BMW Zeitung* that vehicle sales this year will be "comparable" with 1998's.

On the loss-making Rover operation, Mr Milberg said that management is making changes proposed by a study on how to turn the unit around, including the complete integration of Rover with the BMW

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

group, as well as raising efficiency and productivity levels.

"Investment and the introduction of flexible working hours are just the beginning of a series of measures," he said.

"All of these ... should no longer be talked about but need to be implemented quickly."

BMW will also try to boost sales of Rover models, especially of the Rover 200 and 400.

Bernd Fischerrieder was

replaced by Mr Milberg this month after failing to make a profit at Rover since its purchase in 1994. The management change touched off speculation by analysts and investors that BMW might be acquired in whole or part by another car-

maker. General Motors, Ford and Volkswagen are all considered possible suitors.

"One thing's certain - we want to continue to remain independent," Mr Milberg declared. "The Quandt family [majority shareholders] has always clearly stated its affinity to BMW and has squashed all these [takeover] rumours."

He went on: "I am convinced that the difficult situation, which we are in ... because of Rover cars, will be overcome quickly."

Mr Milberg said 1998 sales of BMW vehicles were more than 38m German marks, a growth of more than 8 per cent, which was "excellent". He said: "I am convinced that with our series of products, we are well positioned to achieve comparable results."

UK presses France to open electricity market

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday stepped up the pressure on the French to open their electricity market to competition from UK suppliers.

Speaking as the first phase of electricity liberalisation began across Europe, the energy minister, John Battle, urged the European Commission to get tough on states that lagged behind. The Electricity Association, the UK trade body, accused some member states of "stalling".

One of the Government's priorities will be an overhaul of the way the interconnector between Britain and France operates. Ministers are angry that the current contract between Electricité de France and National Grid guarantees that power only flows in one direction. Last year Edf, a state-owned monopoly, supplied nearly 6 per cent of the electricity market in England

BY MICHAEL HARRISON
Business Editor

and Wales through the 2,000 megawatt interconnector.

Although the contract only expires in 2002, Mr Battle is keen that talks begin soon on a new agreement that provides UK generators with more access to the interconnector.

The Government could have made this a prerequisite of allowing Edf's £1.6bn takeover of London Electricity. But the European Commission to ensure that member states comply with the basic requirements of the directive.

Electricity Association chief executive Philip Denbey said: "It is important that the reciprocity principle is enforced to prevent companies competing in neighbouring markets while remaining de facto monopolies at home."

markets should be opened up. But the EU legislation leaves much to the interpretation of national governments, leading to accusations that some member states are stalling. In France, for instance, the legislation needed to enact the EU directive is still bogged down in the National Assembly.

Mr Battle said some states were going further than required. "However, some countries lag behind, and I expect the European Commission to ensure that member states comply with the basic requirements of the directive."

Electricity Association chief executive Philip Denbey said: "It is important that the reciprocity principle is enforced to prevent companies competing in neighbouring markets while remaining de facto monopolies at home."

COMPANY RESULTS

Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	X-div
Brown & Jackson (I)	195.308m (154.729m)	22.049m (13.251m)	12.29 (8.59)	- (-)	-	-
British Business Systems (B)	1.333m (1.513m)	322.289m (48.506m)	-140p (-59)	1.10	10	82
English & Overseas Prop (F)	13.810m (13.787m)	4.003m (2.595m)	51.16 (32.99)	20.05.99	01.03.99	
Globe Telecoms (F)	7.982m (7.930m)	2.671m (2.665m)	47.50 (43.30)	20.25.99 (17.500)	10.05.99	01.03.99
Hastie (F)	-	*1.762m (1.645m)	1.95p (0.40p)	+		
Hastie Holdings (I)	3.268m (3.773m)	0.346m (1.165m)	23.8p (28.8p)	18.5p (-)	30.04.99	29.03.99
Bank Group (F)	2b (2b)	-51m (500m)	-	-	-	-
* Before Exceptionals						

(I) - Final (F) - Interim (Q) - Quarterly (SP) - Split Period (M) - New Month

Dow Jones launches new index for Net stocks

INVESTORS WANTING to track the boom in electronic commerce have a new tool. Dow Jones, the US financial information services group, yesterday introduced a new index to track Internet stocks, and the Chicago Board Options Exchange

change will launch an index option based on it.

The Dow Jones Internet Index includes 40 stocks, and seeks to represent 80 per cent of the sector's capitalisation. "The actual number of components may fluctuate as the sec-

tor continues to mature," said Dow Jones.

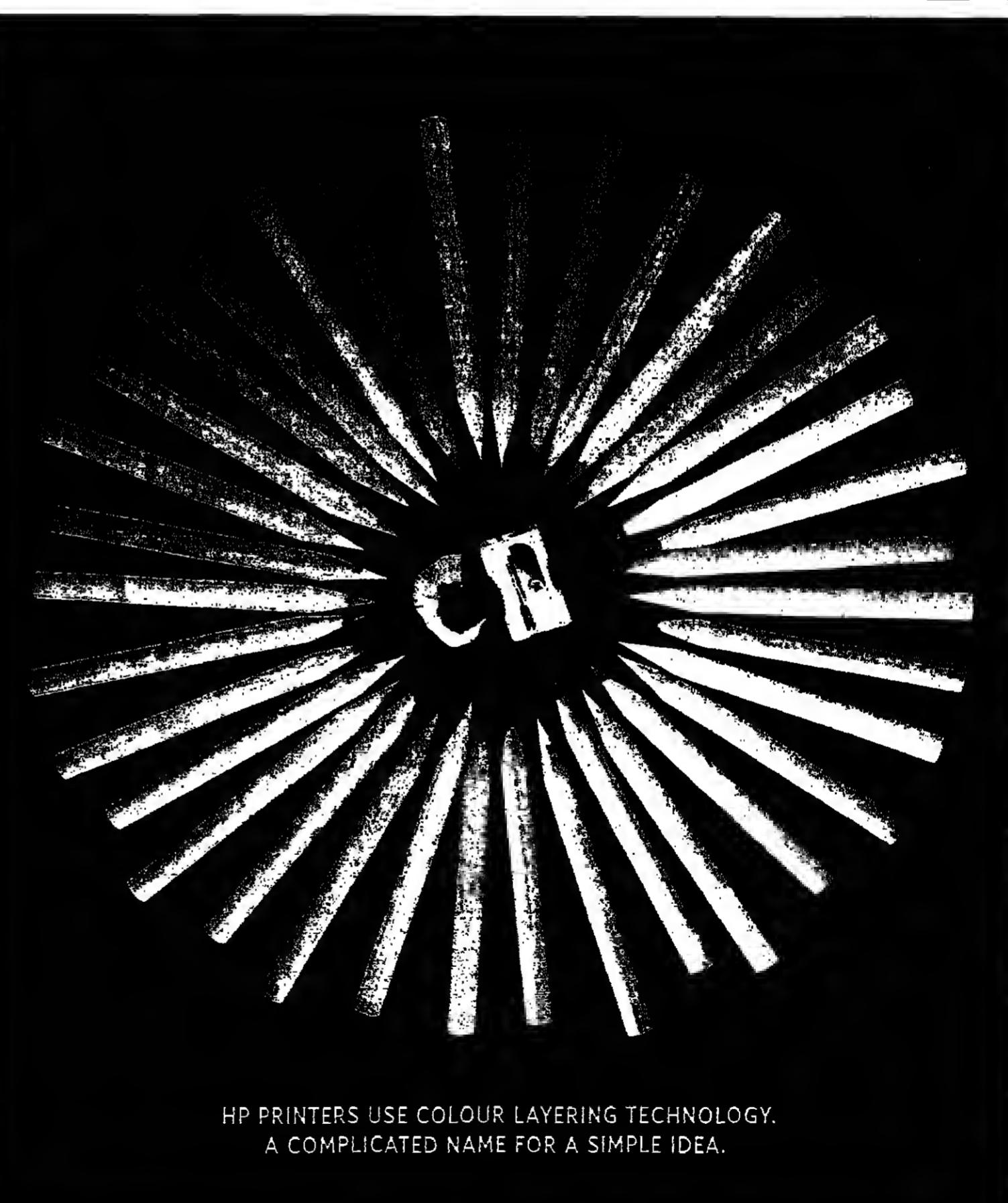
It has two sub-indexes: one for Internet commerce, which includes bookseller Amazon.com, broker E TRADE and Yahoo!, the Internet portal service; and the other for Internet services,

which includes Netscape, the browser company, and America Online.

Dow Jones has calculated historical data for the index, which shows that it stood at 70 in September and accelerated to nearly 230 before

falling back to 170 yesterday.

Meanwhile, shares in Microsoft fell by more than 3 per cent yesterday on concerns about the US technology sector and the outcome of the competition trial. The price has fallen by 17.5 per cent this month.



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Doubts over Saudi deal give BAe rough ride

SHARES IN British Aerospace suffered in Tornado-style manoeuvres as the stock market fretted over stories that the crucial Al-Yamamah defence contracts with Saudi Arabia had been frozen.

In heavy trading BAe shares swung from an 11p gain to a 45p loss, then closed down 18p at 42p.

Although the Ministry of Defence denied that the arms-for-oil deal had been frozen or postponed, the market continued to nurse nagging doubts about the contract's future. An MoD spokesman said: "Both the UK and Saudi governments are totally committed to the agreement."

The story surfaced in Saudi Arabia. It was claimed that the Saudi government had asked that the contracts should be frozen at a care and maintenance level at meetings with defence secretary George Robertson earlier this month.

The alleged Saudi request stemmed from the economic difficulties the Arab kingdom was encountering. Any shelving of the 20-year deal, worth

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

1118m, beating the previous 1022m record established last March. Yesterday's volume was just below 1 billion.

Supporting shares gave ground, with even the small cap index moving into negative territory, off 41 at 2246.7.

Cadbury Schweppes, the sweets group, was again among the Footsie front-runners, gaining a further 36.5p to 1,037.5p as the Hershey merger story continued its mouth-watering progress. Dresdner Kleinwort Benson and SG Securities were among houses to join the buy chorus.

Norwich Union felt the weight of CIBC caution, falling 10.25p to 451.75p, but Legal & General, unchanged at 863.5p, resisted.

Rio Tinto, the mining group, was ruffled by a rogue trade, subsequently cancelled. The shares were at one time up 88p on the misfire, ending 16p higher at 780p. Imperial

shares were 2.5p to 107p, with Sean putting volume at a remarkable 9.3 million. Rumours have circulated of a bid but Smith is one of the market's more hoary takeover candidates and some believe the shares were caught in an old fashioned ramp.

Brent International, the chemicals group where a bid is expected next week, firmed a further 1.5p to 112p.

LPX, an electrical equipment group, brightened 5p to 69p after an upbeat trading statement. Pace Micro Technology's revival continued with a 22.5p gain to 141.5p as the digital decoder maker has clinched what hopes is a breakthrough deal, supplying 100,000 digital television set-top boxes to US group, BellSouth.

Sira Business Systems

held at 3.5p. Three minutes before the market closed it was announced that chairman Robert Weid had sold 7 million shares at 3p. He still has just over 50 per cent of the capital.

Shield Diagnostic jumped 50p to 325p following the Nomura valuation of 2,700p.

Tay Homes, the house

builder, softened to 130.5p as "rebel" shareholders were narrowly defeated at a special meeting: 50.8 per cent of the capital supported the board.

Hazlewood Foods, meeting

analysts, firmed 6p to 126.5p,

and some supermarket chains were weak on a sales fall

billions of pounds and supposed to bring in £2bn a year to BAe, would be a grievous blow not only to BAe but to other defence groups as well.

BAe's results next week are

expected to show further scars from the Saudi deal. At the time of its interim figures it was thought to have suffered a £50m shortfall.

The contracts were signed in 1985 by the then prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, and have subsequently been updated. They have already involved more than 120 Tornado fighter jets as well as Hawk trainers and various military vehicles.

General Electric Co, selling its Marconi unit to BAe, also had a volatile session, swinging between a 21p fall and a 10.5p gain but ending off 11.5p at 515.50 in busy trading.

Footsie, too, was on a seesaw, moving between a 71.3-point fall and a 44.9 gain, ending off just 3.5 at 6,074.8. Today's futures and options expiry caused some anxiety. The late rally was helped by a firm New York opening and the Halifax cash handsets.

Last month the stock market, with daily turnover frequently topping 1 billion shares, not surprisingly enjoyed its busiest-ever month. In 20 days' trading shares worth £365bn changed hands, with domestic stocks accounting for

illustrated by an AGB survey. Tesco lost 3.75p to 174p. Unilever, off 7p at 60p, was unsettled by DKB caution.

Halifax, on its results and cash handout, rose 19.5p to 791p. Glaxo Wellcome's figures lifted the shares 21p to 2,014p. Abbey National, expected to post a 20 per cent profit gain to £1.55bn today, firmed 22p to 1,336p.

Profit caution lowered CPL

Aromas, the flavours and fragrances group, 18.5p to 64.5p.

Packaging group John

Waddington lost 12.5p to 165.5p. Losses at Danka Business Systems cut the shares 15.5p to 72.5p.

Limelight, the bathroom and kitchen group, sunk 4.5p to 39p as its bid talks, thought to be with Anglian, were called off. But ITG, the Irish computer and telecoms group, produced its expected deal, paying up to £2.1m in cash and shares for Computercall, a credit card services company. The shares rose at 395p.

Packaging group David S

Smith was the subject of intense speculation. The shares

GOLF CLUB Holdings enjoyed a hole-in-one session, jumping 5p to 25.5p.

The usual takeover stories went the rounds, but the company offered up a more mundane explanation. It drew attention to an offer it had made to shareholders. It has joined the perks club, and shareholders get eight free golf rounds at its clubs and a 10 per cent discount at its shops. All that is needed is 5,000 shares.

firmed 2.5p to 107p, with Sean putting volume at a remarkable 9.3 million. Rumours have circulated of a bid but Smith is one of the market's more hoary takeover candidates and some believe the shares were caught in an old fashioned ramp.

Brent International, the chemicals group where a bid is expected next week, firmed a further 1.5p to 112p.

LPX, an electrical equipment group, brightened 5p to 69p after an upbeat trading statement. Pace Micro Technology's revival continued with a 22.5p gain to 141.5p as the digital decoder maker has clinched what hopes is a breakthrough deal, supplying 100,000 digital television set-top boxes to US group, BellSouth.

Sira Business Systems

held at 3.5p. Three minutes before the market closed it was announced that chairman Robert Weid had sold 7 million shares at 3p. He still has just over 50 per cent of the capital.

Shield Diagnostic jumped 50p to 325p following the Nomura valuation of 2,700p.

Tay Homes, the house

builder, softened to 130.5p as "rebel" shareholders were narrowly defeated at a special meeting: 50.8 per cent of the capital supported the board.

Hazlewood Foods, meeting

analysts, firmed 6p to 126.5p,

and some supermarket chains were weak on a sales fall

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BAe's results next week are

expected to show further scars from the Saudi deal. At the time of its interim figures it was

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The contracts were signed in 1985 by the then prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, and have subsequently been updated. They have already involved more than 120 Tornado fighter jets as well as Hawk trainers and various military vehicles.

General Electric Co, selling its Marconi unit to BAe, also had a volatile session, swinging between a 21p fall and a 10.5p gain but ending off 11.5p at 515.50 in busy trading.

Footsie, too, was on a seesaw, moving between a 71.3-point fall and a 44.9 gain, ending off just 3.5 at 6,074.8. Today's futures and options expiry caused some anxiety. The late rally was helped by a firm New York opening and the Halifax cash handsets.

Last month the stock market, with daily turnover frequently topping 1 billion shares, not surprisingly enjoyed its busiest-ever month. In 20 days' trading shares worth £365bn changed hands, with domestic stocks accounting for

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SPORT

Five Nations: Football loses out as Welsh rugby reaps the benefits of a burly teenager who switched codes at 17

Wyatt thrives in a changing world

PONTYPOOL IS not exactly on the road to Damascus, but eight years ago an astonishing conversion took place. It was in the heart of Gwent rugby country that football-loving Chris Wyatt was finally introduced to rugby.

He had resisted a lot longer than most, passed his 17th birthday before handling an oval ball in anger. But in the end he had little option. He was hijacked at Pontypool College while he was looking for the football crew.

"I made the mistake of asking the rugby coach where the soccer boys were training," said Wyatt. The college coach looked Wyatt up and down his 6ft 5in frame and decided that this hefty teenager was just what he was looking for.

Wyatt added: "He said to me: 'You're too big to play football and anyway we need a second row.' I had no choice. I was made to play even though I didn't know the rules."

Wyatt does now, though. But he found it tough at first. "I had to get used to just accepting the referee's decision," explained Wyatt, who played at centre-forward and centre-half for Newport AFC in his formative years and more recently for his local pub, the Parc-y-Priory in Malpas.

"When I first took up rugby I would play that on a Saturday then turn out for the pub side on the Sunday. I haven't played for a couple of years now except for the odd kick-around."

Rugby in effect took over. He scored two tries on his debut for the college and has gone ever onward and upward. If there is any surprise at all as regards Wyatt's career it is the fact that he took so long. His father Phil played lock and No 8 for the Prison Service and when he was posted to Albany on the Isle of Wight he played alongside Mark Mapleton's father, an

other prison officer at the time.

Wyatt Jnr has now been blooded at the highest level and a fortnight ago in Edinburgh had his first taste of the Five Nations' Championship, when winning his fifth cap in the second row for Wales against Scotland.

It ended in defeat and bitter

disappointment for the team

but was something of a personal triumph for Wyatt, the 17st 4lb Lanelli lock. A computer programme set up specifically to measure individual performance throughout the match, covering all aspects of the game from ball winning, ball retention, tackles made, missed and so on, saw the 25-year-old Wyatt emerge with the highest score, some 20 points more

than Scotland's outstanding contributor, John Leslie.

The accolade washes off his back. He had wanted victory on his Five Nations debut. So now he is looking for success against Ireland at Wembley tomorrow.

"We were all very disappointed after the Scotland match," he said. "We know we are capable of competing with anyone on an even footing on our day. As far as Ireland goes, we know what to expect. They will be up on us in numbers to let them. But that somehow makes it easier for us to get up for this one.

"We will have to go toe-to-toe with them and graft. We have been bumped and bruised over here at the time. And I was down there at the same time in preparation for the

Lions' were touring, so rugby had an even higher profile. The club I was with were so desperately short of second-row players that I went straight into the first team."

"Although the standard in New Zealand is very different at club level from provincial level, in other words it is not that marvellous, I was still surprised when I returned home at how much I had learned."

He is also possessed of natural sporting ability. He puts his athleticism around the pitch and at the line-out down to his years of playing basketball and, to a lesser extent, volleyball.

And Wyatt reckoned: "Basketball is an ideal training sport for rugby, firstly because of the immense fitness levels you need to play the game, also because of the furious pace at which it is played; and the hand-eye co-ordination and jumping ability all apply to my role in the second row."

Wyatt moved from Newport to Neath in 1994 where a further conversion took place and he found himself in the back row. He won Wales A honours at The Gnoll but then moved further west to Lanelli, his present club.

When he needs to escape he goes down to the river to fish. "I don't mind if I don't catch anything," explained Wyatt, "it is just great to be able to sit on the river bank and contemplate everything around me."

There is no chance he would rather be fishing tomorrow. He wants to pull on that red jersey for his country. "It is a little disappointing that I am not playing a Five Nations match in Cardiff," he admitted, "but the fans have made Wembley a second home for us. And the Irish have always maintained that Cardiff is like playing at home for them, so maybe by playing at Wembley we will break the sequence." He will certainly give it a try.

"It was a fantastic experience," said Wyatt, "and a great benefit to my game. I was playing for Newport Youth over here at the time. And I was down there at the same time in preparation for the

Wales gamble on Young fitness

THERE WAS a suspicion of desperation in everything the Wales squad did from the moment they trotted out on to the London Welsh first XV pitch in Richmond yesterday - the first time the national team has taken advantage of the Exiles' facilities, but then it is a home game for them at Wembley, writes David Llewellyn.

The management policy has barred them from speaking to the media in the 48 hours before the match against Ireland and, after an apparently satisfactory work-out and with no obvious reaction to the rigours of the 90 minute session, the Cardiff prop Dai Young was named at tighthead.

There is no doubt Wales need Young, the 30-year-old former Salford Rugby League player. The Wales coach, Graham Henry, acknowledged: "The

Irish have the best tight five in the Five Nations." And, since Wales were ripped to shreds up front by Scotland two weeks ago, something needed to be done, but whether Young was the answer remains to be seen.

He has managed just a handful of appearances for Cardiff this season. It seems strange to think that something as innocuous as a calf muscle could have floored such a bull of a man, but that has been the case with the Cardiff captain, whose near 18 stone, 6ft 1in bulk will add clout to the Welsh cause.

The team manager, David Pickering, insisted that the British Lion is 100 per cent fit and said that he was expected to last the 80 minutes of tomorrow's test. Pickering, himself a former Wales captain, said: "Today's training session was pretty extensive and there was a tremendous scrummaging session. Dai took a full part

in that and he also took part in the team run-out."

As a measure of Wales' desperation to include him in the side they are prepared to overlook his lack of match hardness. And against the fiery and fired-up Irish that could be a critical factor. Henry admitted: "David has not played enough rugby, but that was not the major criterion for selection."

It is his experience they are after. That alone will be invaluable. He made his Wales debut in the 1987 World Cup and has since gone on to accumulate 28 caps. Henry added: "We haven't been that positive on the scrums in the last three internationals. He is an old hand who has scrummaged in a lot of international games and he knows the ropes. And he is packing down with two relatively young front rowers. For us to put three such inexperienced players together would

not be the right thing to do. You want some experience in there. We also have two young locks who have not played a lot of international football, so the presence of Young is pretty important in the forwards. Particularly when you consider that the Irish have four Lions in their tight five."

Henry really rates the Irish.

"They should have won two weeks ago against France and I don't know why they didn't; they were certainly the better side on that particular occasion," he said.

The Australian captain, John Eales, is expected to be fit to play in this year's World Cup after an exploratory operation on his right shoulder yesterday. The Australian team doctor, John Best, said that he expected Eales could be back playing within six months, giving him time to prepare for October's World Cup.

Exercising his options: Wales lock Chris Wyatt starts his stretching routine in training at the London Welsh ground, Old Deer Park, yesterday in preparation for tomorrow's match against Ireland at Wembley. David Ashdown



JEREMY GUSCOTT knows a thing or two about Five Nations rugby, not least how it feels to concede the Calcutta Cup to the "men in shirts", as the English like to label their erstwhile rivals from north of Hadrian's Wall. So when the great Bath centre describes Scotland's new midfield trio as "pretty much the equal of anything in the world", it is wise to listen. The smart money may be going on a handsome red rose victory at Twickenham tomorrow, but the favourites are genuinely fearful of the craftsmen in the visitors' creative force.

Jim Telfer, the crafty old fox

who is nearing the end of his latest spell as Scotland coach, confirmed yesterday that Gregor Townsend, his single richest talent, would play at outside-half after a brief and perplexing flirtation with the No 13 shirt. John Leslie continues at inside centre with Alan Tait outside him.

"Anyone can play off Gregor and anyone can play off Leslie,"

said Guscott. "As for Tait, he has gone from union to league and back to union and proved himself a force to be reckoned with at every stage. They'll cause us problems, that's for sure."

Which is exactly how Jolly Jim sees it. "This is the best information for playing the English back division," Telfer agreed after confirming his line-up for the 116th meeting of the oldest rivals in the international game. Those who wondered what the hell the coach was thinking of when he picked Townsend at outside centre for the championship opener with Wales 15 days ago would have been even more confused at the coach's sudden switch of sentiment, but Scottish selectors often move in mysterious ways.

The fact is that Townsend elevated the blue-shirted heroes to another level when he moved to his optimum No 10 position to

replace the injured Duncan Hodge midway through the Welsh encounter; indeed, all three members of Telfer's revamped midfield axis scored tries as the Scots registered an unexpected 33-20 victory.

"Gregor can mesmerise you," admitted Guscott, who played outside the mercurial maestro from Edinburgh throughout the 1997 Lions Test series in South Africa. "He's quick, unpredictable and shows the ball well enough to suck you in. It's a

dangerous back division they have there."

Many believe it will be more dangerous still if Cameron Murray, the Edinburgh Reivers wing, fails to recover from the virus that forced his isolation from the squad yesterday. His withdrawal would presumably mean promotion for Shaun Longstaff, the no-nonsense 16-stone wing from Glasgow Caledonians via New Zealand who crossed for a consolation try in last year's corresponding fixture

at Murrayfield. Craig Joines, a

versatile back-line operator who

has struck a rich vein of recent form at Leicester, has moved up from the second-string A squad as extra cover.

Sadly for the Scots, the one enforced change up front does little to enhance their chances of a first victory at Twickenham since 1983. The loss of Doddie Weir, who broke an ankle during the Wales match, is a grievous blow and for all Telfer's faith in Stuart Grimes, 6ft 5in of Aberdeen granite, the Scottish pack looks rather less threatening than the back division.

"Actually it was a toss-up between Stuart and Doddie at the start of the season," insisted the coach yesterday. "Doddie got the nod, but Stuart is every bit as good a player. I have no worries about him; he has played a good deal of top-class rugby and done consistently well this season."

At least Grimes and his engine-room partner, Scott Murray,

know what it is to brave the fires together: they first linked up in Australia last summer and delighted Reivers by going toe to toe with John Eales and Tim Bowden and giving the best second-row combination in the game a few things to ponder.

"We said when we returned from Australia that we had taken strides forward and Stuart and Scott were among those responsible," said the coach. To what extent the Welshby experience will help them live with Martin Johnson and Tim Rodber remains to be seen.

Scotland (v England, Five Nations Championships, Twickenham tomorrow); G. Telfer (Edinburgh), A. Tait (Edinburgh), J. Leslie (Bath), G. Grimes (Leeds), J. Murray (Glasgow), C. Joines (Leicester), G. Murray (Edinburgh), G. Balmer (Glasgow Caledonians), P. Williams (Edinburgh), S. Murray (Edinburgh), S. Corless (Glasgow Caledonians), P. Williams (Newcastle Falcons), P. Pearce (Bath), J. Leslie (Edinburgh), G. Guscott (Glasgow Caledonians), C. Chisholm (Edinburgh), J. Palmer (Edinburgh), B. Pentland (Northampton), A. Read (Leeds), S. Hines (Bath), S. Brookes (Edinburgh), R. Jones (Cardiff), J. Lomax (Leeds), G. A. Jones (Newcastle Falcons), capt. T. Smith (Glasgow Caledonians), G. Balmer (Glasgow Caledonians), P. Williams (Edinburgh), S. Murray (Edinburgh), S. Corless (Glasgow Caledonians), P. Williams (Newcastle Falcons), P. Pearce (Bath), J. Leslie (Edinburgh), G. Guscott (Glasgow Caledonians), C. Chisholm (Edinburgh), J. Palmer (Edinburgh), B. Pentland (Northampton), A. 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New coach outlines plans for Kingsholm

RUGBY UNION
BY MARTIN ARCHER

PHILIPPE SAINT-ANDRÉ yesterday revealed that his first duties in charge at Kingsholm will be to prune the Gloucester squad and introducing a more "collective" style on the field.

The former French captain, who took over as the Gloucester coach when Richard Hill was sacked earlier this week, has set himself the target of a top six place in the Premiership next season - even though he will be in charge of a smaller squad.

After three days of talks with players and club bosses, Saint-André disclosed that the squad will be cut by about 10, from 38 to 28. There will be a hard core of full-time professionals, although a few of the squad will have to accept part-time contracts and find other jobs, he said.

Despite the reduced manpower, Saint-André is ambitious to improve Gloucester's fortunes. "Top six is the target I have set myself for next season if my budget is the same as this season," he said. "If Gloucester are not in the top six at the end of next season I shall stop and say: 'it's my mistake'."

Saint-André, struggling with his limited command of English, said he already had a lot of new ideas to bring to Gloucester. His first priority, he said, was to select a team to beat Harlequins in the Tetley's Bitter Cup quarter final at Kingsholm on 27 February. "I want, if it is possible, to win the cup this season," he declared. "It will be very good for Gloucester and for the supporters. I hope that Kingsholm will be very, very full and one thing is sure: the 15 or 20 players who are on the field will play with a big heart and a lot of passion. We will play for a win, that is for sure."

Saint-André said he had hardly slept for the last three days since the shock sacking of Hill and his appointment as coach. "It is a big surprise in France - the first time a Frenchman has become a coach of an English rugby club," he said. "My telephone has not stopped ringing with calls from the French TV, radio and newspapers."

He said he was relishing the challenge of improving Gloucester's fortunes - but his wife, Sylvie, was less enthusiastic. "My wife, she is not very happy," he said. "She saw me always when I was just a player here compared to when I was in France when she never saw me. Now I shall be very, very busy again and she will not see me much. She said it was not possible but I like responsibility and the challenge."

Saint-André said he would look for experienced recruits to strengthen the pack, which is light on internationals compared to the backs. He also pledged that no player would have to turn out more than 26 to 28 times in a season - compared with the 35 to 40 games many are currently forced to endure. "The players are too tired," he said. "Steve Ojomoh has already played 21 games this season - it is too much."

His aim will be to establish a squad system. "We have very good individual players but they need... to play more collectively," he said. Saint-André also hinted at a change of captaincy - but refused to say who was likely to replace Dave Sims.



Ashley has world title fight in his sights

BOXING
BY LINDSAY HARRISON

CRAWFORD ASHLEY could be as little as two fights away from another shot at a world title, after it was announced that the Leeds veteran will defend his British, European and Commonwealth light-heavyweight titles against Sheffield's Clinton Woods in Manchester on 13 March.

Ashley's promoter, Frank Mahoney, said today: "If Crawford beats Woods I will write to the World Boxing Council, asking them to match him with Montell Griffin in an eliminator for Roy Jones' title."

"Joe Siliwangi, who Crawford beat for the European title in September, has been nominated by the European Boxing Union as No 1 contender. But I would rather he gave up the title, as fighting Siliwangi again would not do his career any good."

Ashley, who will be 35 in May, was stopped in six rounds by Michael Nunn for the World Boxing Association super-middleweight title in April 1993 and was out-pointed by Virgil Hill for the WBA light-heavyweight championship two years later.

"I expect Clinton to come on with all guns blazing, but I will be ready for him," Ashley said. Woods, 26, who replaces the recently retired Henry Wharton, said: "I will give Crawford a much harder fight than Wharton would have done."

Battersby's Howard Eastman is also moving up a division, but for a different reason. The unbeaten British middleweight champion has scared off the opposition following his one-sided victory over Steve Foster for the vacant title last November.

Eastman will thus have to wait a little longer to realise his ambition of winning a Lonsdale Belt outright. In the meantime, the British middleweight champion is moving up to super-middleweight on 6 March, when he fights Yorkshire's John Penn for the vacant International Boxing Organisation inter-continental title at the Elephant and Castle leisure centre.

Unbeaten Eastman, with 20 straight wins to his credit, said: "I'm very frustrated. I wanted to win a Lonsdale Belt at middleweight, but no one wants to fight me. What can I do?"

Maloney, who is also Eastman's promoter, said: "We have approached everybody. The board nominated Anthony McFadden, but he got 'no'. Then politics got in the way."

Glenn Cadley moved up to super-middleweight to avoid Howard. Cornelius Carr refused to fight him, and now the winner of this month's Commonwealth title fight between Paul Jones and Jason Matthews will be his mandatory challenger, but I cannot see it happening."

Sharing the bill will be Eastman's brother, Gilbert, who meets Kofi Jantun of Ghana for the vacant Commonwealth welterweight title. Gilbert, who is also unbeaten, with 11 victories, will have his work cut out. Jason is a stablemate of like Quartey, who lost a split decision to the WBC welterweight champion, Oscar De La Hoya, last Saturday.

Stourbridge's Robert Norton will have home advantage when he challenges Jacob Mofokeng of South Africa for the World Boxing Union cruiserweight title at Aston Villa Sports Centre on 1 April.

Lawrie back in the groove

ABERDEEN'S PAUL LAWRIE gave the best possible advertisement for his new coach, Adam Hunter, yesterday by charging into the half-way lead at the Qatar Masters in Doha.

It was his second appearance of the season following a four-month lay-off because of a knee injury. Lawrie added a 65 to his opening 68 and on an 11-under-par total of 133 takes a two-stroke lead into the third round.

Hunter, a fellow Scot who won the Portuguese Open four years ago, has given up playing to concentrate on coaching. "I think he's made a big difference," Lawrie said.

"When I had those 13 bogeys and finished 10 over last week I couldn't find a fairway," said Lawrie. "This week I've once looked once like making bogey in one. Argentina's Eduardo Romero won a £25,000 sports car in the first round for an ace at the 161-yard 17th, but Sweden's Patrik Sjoland's reward

GOLF
BY MARK GARROD
in Doha

came when the 1996 Catalan Open was reduced to 36 holes by high winds, asked: "Can we stop it now?" Lawrie birdied all four par-fives and also picked up shots on the fourth, 11th and 206-yard 13th - where England's John Bickerton boled-in on his way to a share of second place with France's Jean van de Velde and the Dane, Soren Kjeldsen.

"When I had those 13 bogeys and finished 10 over last week I couldn't find a fairway," said Lawrie. "This week I've once looked once like making bogey in one. Argentina's Eduardo Romero won a £25,000 sports car in the first round for an ace at the 161-yard 17th, but Sweden's Patrik Sjoland's reward

tournaments in Florida during the winter and won five of them, had a 67 and reaped the benefits of keeping his feet on the ground after seeing his three-iron tee shot disappear into the cup.

"After my first hole-in-one" - he has had "five or six" in his life - "I was running round like a chicken, but I tried to keep calm this time," said the 29-year-old. Three holes later he began a run of four successive birdies.

Kjeldsen matched Lawrie's 68; one outside the course record, while Van de Velde had a 66.

The £625,000 tournament

has already seen three holes-in-one. Argentina's Eduardo Romero won a £25,000 sports car in the first round for an ace at the 161-yard 17th, but Sweden's Patrik Sjoland's reward

for matching that was simply as a result that he made the half-way cut as a result.

Justin Rose has still to do that, however. Despite three closing birdies the 18-year-old from Hampshire, his fourth place in last July's Open now a distant memory, finished on three-over - three too many. He has now crashed out in all 14 events he has played as a professional.

Seve Ballesteros is on his way home too, but the Dubai Desert Classic winner David Howell survived with nothing to spare and Ian Woosnam not just avoided a third successive missed cut, but stayed in contention at six under.

The Ryder Cup captain Mark James, third overnight, is alongside the Welshman and just ahead of them in joint sixth place is Bernard Gallacher's

nephew Stephen, thoroughly enjoying his return to the circuit apart from his frequent dashes to the toilet with a stomach problem.

Gallacher, part of the Walker Cup side which beat the United States at Portchartrain in 1995, suffered back injuries the following two seasons, but re-established himself on the Challenge Tour last year.

This was his first appearance back and, after a 68, the 24-year-old said: "When I first came on tour, I was a bit awestruck watching Monty, Paul and Woosie on the range. I've benefited from the Challenge Tour."

In Sydney, the Australian Rodney Pampling overcame high winds to take a one-stroke lead in the Canon Challenge first round yesterday.

He held his game together

and fired a five-under-par 67 at the Terry Hills Country Club. His compatriot, Marcus Cain, was one shot back, but last week's Australian Masters winner, Craig Spence, struggled to

QATAR MASTERS (Doha). Leading second round scores: (65 or 1/2 under) 133 P Lawrie 68 65, 135 5 (66 or 1/2 under) 132 P Bickerton 67 65, 136 R Russell 66 70, 137 B May (US) 67 70, 136 G Colchester 68 68, 138 J Sprince 71 67; K Woolcock 69 69, 139 J van de Velde 68 70, 140 M Jones 68 70, P Norman (Aus) 69 70, M Jones 67 71, A Celia (Ger) 69 69; C Hunt (Swe) 71 67, G Kjeldsen 69 69, 141 D Ley (Aus) 69 70, 142 D Ley (Aus) 70 71, A Hansen (Den) 71 69; S Timmer (Den) 72 68, M Roe 72 68; P Lindgren (Swe) 72 68; E Romero (Arg) 69 71; P McKinney 72 69; G Moragues (US) 74 67; P Harrington 71 71; M Form 70 71; 142 P Mitchell 75 69; C Phipps 70 71; 143 D Burnell 71 72; J Garbett 71 71; A Hansen (Den) 72 69; J Rivero (Sp) 72 70; A McLandy (Swe) 73 69; M Mackay 72 70; 144 D Howlett 72 72; Selected non-qualifiers: 147 J Rodger (Eng) 73 75, 148 D Parrott 73 75; 150 S Struver (Ger) 78 77.

Walker panel named

UK ATHLETICS has named the three drugs advisory committee members who will join Michael Belfoff QC to decide whether Doug Walker has committed a doping offence. A date for the meeting has yet to be set.

Belfoff, who was appointed chairman on 4 February, will sit with Joan Allison. Joining the former British team manager are Professors Vivian James and Hugh Makin from the University of London, both of whom are acknowledged experts on anabolic steroids and steroid hormones.

After they have convened they will present their recommendations as soon as possible to the sports governing body.

"Preparatory work is still being done to ensure the doc-

ATHLETICS
BY MARK PIERSON

umentation is correct," a UK Athletics spokeswoman, Jayne Pearce, said. "A free date in the diaries of those concerned has also to be found."

It was announced on 26 January that metabolites of the banned steroid, nandrolone, had been found in two urine samples given by Walker following an out-of-competition test last December.

The Scot who captured the European 200 metres gold medal last summer made a public admission he was the mystery athlete involved after the offence was leaked to a Sunday newspaper. But he has always insisted his innocence.

Since the revelation, UK Athletics has confirmed that a private test undertaken by Walker showed no evidence of the banned substance. However, it is the original testing procedures which will be considered by the panel.

If found guilty, Walker faces a two-year suspension under International Amateur Athletic Federation rules. That would rule him out of both this year's World Championships in Seville and the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney.

Indeed, the punishment awarded by the British Olympic Association would be even more severe. It is the body's policy that anyone found guilty of a drug offence should be given a life suspension from competing in the Olympic Games.

GRAEME DOTT scored the best result of his career in Aberdeen, last night thanks to help from Terry Griffiths. Dott dashed the hopes of John Parrott with a 65 or 1/2 come-back win to reach the quarter-finals of the £370,000 Scottish Open.

And after setting up a meeting against Yorkshireman Paul Hunter, the 21-year-old Scot thanked Griffiths for his part in the victory.

"I went to see Terry after the Welsh Open last month because I was getting to the point of chucking in the game," said Dott. "My results had been dreadful and I didn't even enjoy practice anymore. But Terry set me right on a number of things."

"Snooker is a mental thing and he put my head straight on a few matters. Much of the

stuff I already knew but it was just good to talk with someone who has so much knowledge."

Dott, a professional since 1994, came from +2 down to beat 1991 world champion Parrott. A break of 107 in frame seven began the revival and he added a half-century in the eighth to level at 4-4. In the deciding frame, Dott booked only the second quarter-final of his career.

Hunter, a second-round winner over Ronnie O'Sullivan, survived a comeback attempt by Dott's fellow Scot, Jamie Burnett, to win 5-4.

Burnett forced a decider after being 4-1 down but was de-

nied at the last gasp by Hunter's run of 53.

Mark Williams stayed on course for a third successive ranking title thanks to his 5-4 win over Matthew Stevens.

"I don't know how I'm still here," said Welsh left-hander Williams, badly hampered by a chest infection. "But I guess winning becomes a habit."

Stevens had a chance to win the decider but on 29 he snookered himself on the pink. Williams eventually produced a 41 clearance started after he trapped his compatriot in a tight snooker.

Grand Prix champion Stephen Lee whitewashed Peter Ebdon who was clearly exhausted after his marathon match the previous night against Jimmy White.

Burnett forced a decider after being 4-1 down but was de-

his friend and already silver medalist, Ben Ainslie, is also bent to his studies, he knows he can achieve an Olympic goal for his own sake without changing what he wants to do in the long term. Banking seems to be the most likely career territory.

"Things seem to fall in your lap sometimes," he says, but it is not that simple. Before he won a bronze medal at the world youth championships in 1992, his sister Katrina did the same in 1990. Younger brother Richard and sister Briony also learned to sail as part of a family activity with their doctor father, David, and physiotherapist mother, Gillian. All four children were good enough to be scooped into the national youth squad.

Time in a Laser, some of it racing against Ainslie, was frustrating as Percy fought a continual battle against growing bigger. "I had to run two hours every day had a miserable diet of pasta and had to forego even

eating cheese for nearly a year."

Now, though, he has shot up from 78kg to nearly 100kg, loving the intellectual challenge of sailing the Finn, which is as physical as a Laser but re-

quires more tactical analysis and the performance development factor of a joint programme of mast development with British Aerospace.

In Melbourne last month he was fourth in the Finn world championships on the water and on the wish-list of a number of girls ashore. "Anyone in the top six is in the medal frame," Derbyshire says, and Percy's own rivals know he is still improving worryingly quickly.

Percy aiming for Olympic success

Britain's rising talent in the Finn class is playing down talk of a glittering future. By Stuart Alexander

tion, putting a 2:1 degree in economics at Bristol University in the bank last year; perhaps it's time to go back to the drawing board.

In what is almost a throwback to an era some may have thought had gone forever, the year 2000 is, for one rising British sporting star, a return to Olympic competition for its own sake, rather than being the stepping stone to a cash bonanza, excelled at by the gifted and fortunate few, and then put in its place as the demands of a fuller career take over.

Iain Percy is 22, on course to challenge for the highest honours in Sydney, and knows that the gods are smiling on him. So does the growing support team around him. He is strong, fit, bright, articulate. He has kept on top of his game but never abandoned his formal educa-

tion, capable of running it to its greatest potential.

Others are more excitable. The manager of Britain's Olympic sailing team, John Derbyshire, says Percy is one of the top four he has ever handled. Plenty more would give their eye teeth for the five to 10 medals. "It is no surprise he is causing a stir in the Olympic sailing firmament," Derbyshire says. "He has got it all."

Percy himself plays down any hint of such excitement. Emotions are to be controlled, a poker face to be practised at all times. But he knows where to draw the line and never allows the laid-back approach to slip into arrogance or complacency. And he knows that he is fortunate to be the right man in the right place at the right time.

"I can make a decision to do it for two, maybe four years, risk free. I am amazingly lucky that this has all become available over the last two or three years," he adds.

Sitting in the old staff common room of his sixth-form college, Peter Symonds, where

Irish making flat contest a bumper issue

IT TOOK the Cheltenham Gold Cup years to establish itself as jump racing's premier event, while the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe started life as a seller but there have been no such problems for the Festival Bumper. Instituted just seven years ago, the race is now one of the strongest betting heats of the three-day meeting and is discussed with as much animation as the Gold Cup itself.

Well, it is in Ireland, anyway. In Britain, the idea of a National Hunt race without any obstacles is still one which many racegoers find impossible to grasp. Across the water, though, bumpers are a serious business. At Leopardstown last month, the betting was fiercer on the bumper than it was on the feature race, and the Festival Bumper has quickly been taken to Irish hearts. It is not just another race in which they have an excellent chance of success. It is often seen as a chance to pay the bills for the entire week.

The most plausible reason for the popularity of NH Flat races in Ireland, and the Festival race in particular, is offered by Paul Cashman, of the Cork bookmakers Liam Cashman. "It's about dreams," he says. "The horses in the race could be anything, like Florida Pearl (the 1997 winner), and Montelado who were and won the Supreme Novice Hurdle the year after. Everyone thinks they've got a star, and they want to put the hard cash down."

Cashman opened a book on the

BY GREG WOOD

race last week, the first British bookie ever to do so at such an early stage. Before it goes to their heads, though, it should be pointed out that Cashman, and many other Irish layers, started betting on the Bumper last autumn.

"This year's race is far and away the most punt-on race of the entire Festival," he says, "and it's the best betting race since the Bumper was started. Back to when it began, I have always had a heavily-loaded book for one horse, like Tattersalls Square, Wither Or Which or Muckdemeg. People come to me for a bet and tell me that I'm mad to lay them, because the horse is going to win by a distance, but this year, 12 of them have said that. I've laid 12 bourses all to lose amounts between £10,000 and £20,000. That suits me just fine, but the bad news for me is that I can't see anything outside of those ones winning."

Clear-favourite at 9-2 with Coral (and joint-favourite at a much fairer 7-1 with Cashman) for next year's Bumper is Youlneverwallalone, trained by Christy Roche and owned by J P McManus. The same connections travelled to last year's event with Joe Mac, the favourite at 6-1 after one of the most sustained gambles of recent years. He came to win the Festival's middle day.

CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL BUMPER: Let's odds (Coral) 9-2 Youlneverwallalone, 7-1 Bumper, Golden Alpha, 10-1 Give It A Hand, 12-1 Tattersalls Square, 14-1 Cashman, 16-1 Tequila, 18-1 Maliceux, 21-1 Shy Looker, 26-1 Shy Looker, 31-1 Shy Looker, 32-1 Shy Looker, 36-1 Shy Looker, 41-1 Shy Looker, 46-1 Shy Looker, 51-1 Shy Looker, 56-1 Shy Looker, 61-1 Shy Looker, 66-1 Shy Looker, 71-1 Shy Looker, 76-1 Shy Looker, 81-1 Shy Looker, 86-1 Shy Looker, 91-1 Shy Looker, 96-1 Shy Looker, 101-1 Shy Looker, 106-1 Shy Looker, 111-1 Shy Looker, 116-1 Shy Looker, 121-1 Shy Looker, 126-1 Shy Looker, 131-1 Shy Looker, 136-1 Shy Looker, 141-1 Shy Looker, 146-1 Shy Looker, 151-1 Shy Looker, 156-1 Shy Looker, 161-1 Shy Looker, 166-1 Shy Looker, 171-1 Shy Looker, 176-1 Shy Looker, 181-1 Shy Looker, 186-1 Shy Looker, 191-1 Shy Looker, 196-1 Shy Looker, 201-1 Shy Looker, 206-1 Shy Looker, 211-1 Shy Looker, 216-1 Shy Looker, 221-1 Shy Looker, 226-1 Shy Looker, 231-1 Shy Looker, 236-1 Shy Looker, 241-1 Shy Looker, 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Kempes blasted aside by Rusedski

GREG RUSEDSKI raced to a 6-1, 6-4 second-round win over the Dutch wildcard Edwin Kempes in the ABN/AMRO world indoor tournament yesterday. The British No 2, who beat Nicolas Kiefer on Wednesday, had no trouble sweeping past Kempes in just 51 minutes.

Rusedski cruised through the opening set, breaking Kempes's serve in the second and fourth games as he took a 5-0 lead. Kempes held his third serve before Rusedski served out to take the set 6-1.

Rusedski secured a third break of serve in the third game of the second set to take a 2-1 lead and that proved to be enough. The next seven games went with serve as Rusedski wrapped up a comfortable victory that featured 12 aces.

Yevgeny Kafelnikov the No 2 seed here, met little resistance from Morocco's Hicham Arazi and stormed through 6-1, 6-2. The Australian Open champion's next hurdle is the Swiss world youth champion Roger Federer in the quarter-finals.

In another afternoon session second-round match in the Ahoy arena, the South African Wayne Ferreira overcame Jerome Golmard of France, 5-7, 6-3, 7-6 (7-4). The 19-year-old Russian Marat Safin continued his impressive progress with a hard-fought 7-6 (7-4), 5-7, 6-3 victory over the Slovakian Dominik Hrbaty.

In Hanover, the local favourite Steffi Graf crushed the Austrian Barbara Schett 6-3, 6-2 to reach the semi-finals of the Faber Grand Prix.

But holder Patty Schnyder, the No 4 seed, tumbled out in the second round of the \$50,000 event, losing in straight sets to the unseeded Russian Elena Lichovtseva. The Swiss was well below her best and eventually doublefaulted on match-point, handing Lichovtseva a 7-6, 6-3 win.

Schett, ranked No 19 in the world, broke Graf in the opening game of their third round match but was then outplayed by the former world No 1.

Graf, now seventh in the WTA rankings and seeded

TENNIS
By DERRICK WHYTE
in Rotterdam

three, made her comeback in Hanover last year after eight months out of the game because of injury problems. She lost in the second round.

"I am satisfied with my form at the moment," said Graf. "I know that if I'm able to train well and everything goes my way I can be up there with the best." Schett agreed. "If she keeps on playing like that she will soon be making her way back to the top," she said.

Graf said she was ready to return to Germany's Fed Cup team who face Japan in Hamburg in April.

The qualifier Barbara Rittner reached the quarter-finals when her Italian opponent Silvia Farina withdrew because of illness after losing the first set. The German will meet either American Venus Williams, the second seed, or Japanese Ai Sugiyama. The winner of that match will face Graf in the semi-final tomorrow.

Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario said yesterday she will not help Spain defend their Fed Cup title because of a troublesome wrist injury. Sanchez-Vicario, who last year won the French Open and with Conchita Martínez, led Spain to a fifth Fed Cup victory, will miss several other tournaments as she cuts down on her commitments.

"My decision is not to play the Fed Cup and to play in fewer tournaments this year. I've been in the sport for 14 years, 11 of those as a top five player, and I play more tournaments than anyone," the 27-year-old said.

In Memphis Jim Courier continued his comeback from an arm injury, upsetting No 4 seed Michael Chang in a second-round match at the Kroger's Indy indoor tournament.

Courier, a former No 1 currently ranked 69th in the world, eliminated Chang, a finalist in the tournament last year, 6-4, 7-6 (7-4), 6-3.

He is now seventh in the WTA rankings and seeded



Saqlain Mushtaq is caught by India's wicketkeeper Nayan Mongia for 21 while Anil Kumble looks on. Reuters

Saeed holds Pakistan together

THE PAKISTAN OPENER Saeed Anwar carried his bat for an unbeaten 188 after the Indian seamer Javagal Srinath had grabbed eight wickets to leave the first Test of the Asian Championship wide open.

Saeed's eighth Test century helped the tourists to 316 in their second innings, to set India 279 in reply. Srinath hit back with the second new ball.

Pakistan were set for a bigger score when a 115-run stand for the fourth wicket between Saeed and Younus Youhaan (56) lifted them to 262 for 3 shortly after tea. But Srinath hit back with the second new ball.

Srinath, who claimed six of those wickets, began the rout by removing Younus and Shahid Afridi off successive balls in his second over with the new ball. The seamer also dismissed Azhar Mahmood and Wasim Akram. Srinath, who took 5 for 46

in the first innings, claimed 8 for 68 in the second.

But there was little the Indians could do to remove Saeed. The 30-year-old surpassed his previous best of 176 against England three years ago but was left stranded as wickets tumbled at the other end.

The Indian opener Sadeq Ramesh was handed a one-match suspended sentence by match referee Cammie Smith for showing dissent after being given out on Wednesday.

*Third day: Pakistan won by 2 runs. Pakistan 223 (5) vs India 218 (5).
PARKERS: 1-10; 2-10; 3-10; 4-10; 5-10; 6-10; 7-10; 8-10; 9-10; 10-10; 11-10; 12-10; 13-10; 14-10; 15-10; 16-10; 17-10; 18-10; 19-10; 20-10; 21-10; 22-10; 23-10; 24-10; 25-10; 26-10; 27-10; 28-10; 29-10; 30-10; 31-10; 32-10; 33-10; 34-10; 35-10; 36-10; 37-10; 38-10; 39-10; 40-10; 41-10; 42-10; 43-10; 44-10; 45-10; 46-10; 47-10; 48-10; 49-10; 50-10; 51-10; 52-10; 53-10; 54-10; 55-10; 56-10; 57-10; 58-10; 59-10; 60-10; 61-10; 62-10; 63-10; 64-10; 65-10; 66-10; 67-10; 68-10; 69-10; 70-10; 71-10; 72-10; 73-10; 74-10; 75-10; 76-10; 77-10; 78-10; 79-10; 80-10; 81-10; 82-10; 83-10; 84-10; 85-10; 86-10; 87-10; 88-10; 89-10; 90-10; 91-10; 92-10; 93-10; 94-10; 95-10; 96-10; 97-10; 98-10; 99-10; 100-10; 101-10; 102-10; 103-10; 104-10; 105-10; 106-10; 107-10; 108-10; 109-10; 110-10; 111-10; 112-10; 113-10; 114-10; 115-10; 116-10; 117-10; 118-10; 119-10; 120-10; 121-10; 122-10; 123-10; 124-10; 125-10; 126-10; 127-10; 128-10; 129-10; 130-10; 131-10; 132-10; 133-10; 134-10; 135-10; 136-10; 137-10; 138-10; 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No happy returns for Collymore

THE COLD war between Aston Villa's manager John Gregory and the errant Stan Collymore is showing no signs of a thaw, despite the controversial striker's surprise return to playing action against Leeds on Wednesday.

Collymore, who has been undergoing counselling for stress and depression since walking out on the club last month, appeared for the last 19 minutes as Villa tried in vain to avoid a third consecutive defeat in the Premiership.

But despite Collymore being greeted almost as a hero by the Villa Park crowd, Gregory made it clear yesterday that there was no question of Villa extending an olive branch to the club's £7m record signing, whose prospects of reviving his career in the West Midlands appear to be diminishing.

"I've said all along that I don't agree with what Stan is doing and that remains my position," Gregory said, re-emphasising that he will not be offering Collymore the same friendship and understanding he has shown towards Paul Merson in his struggle against alcoholism.

Gregory has shown undisguised disdain for the course Collymore has chosen to take and indicated that his recall on Wednesday came only because there was effectively no alternative. Collymore had not been expected to make a playing comeback until next month.

"The situation is that Dion (Dublin) is struggling with a groin problem at the moment which really needs an operation and he is playing in a great deal of pain," Gregory explained.

"In the last few games we have been so stretched I have had to put virtually the youth team on the bench. I needed someone with experience so I

spoke to Jim Walker, the physio, a few hours before the game, and he told me that Stan was in good enough shape physically to play.

"As a result of that conversation I spoke to Stan at about 5.30pm on Wednesday and he said he was willing to come and sit on the bench. I told him to put aside all the rubbish of the last few weeks and get back to playing football. To be fair, when he did come on he did okay."

But Gregory was in no mood to forgive the 29-year-old Collymore, whose admission to the Priory Clinic at Marchwood in Hampshire - where Paul Gascoigne has also received treatment - followed his refusal to sit on the substitutes' bench for Villa's FA Cup match against Fulham last month.

Nor did he make any attempt to withdraw any of his outspoken criticisms of the player, whom he holds at least partially responsible for the slump in form that has seen Villa lose four matches in a row.



Collymore: Treatment

starting with the Cup defeat against Fulham, and surrender their place at the top of the Premiership.

In Gregory's view, the latest controversy surrounding Collymore has done nothing but undermine Villa's progress. "So much of my attention has been taken up with these off-the-field affairs at a time when I would have preferred to be out on the training ground," he said.

Collymore returned to the clinic after Wednesday's match and is expected to stay there for at least another 10 days, although there is a possibility he will play some part in Villa's match against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park on Sunday.

"Stan is very positive about his treatment," Gregory said. "He says it is helping him and if it helps Stan then I suppose it helps Villa, in a small way.

"But I am still very sceptical about the whole issue," he added. "I'm of the old school, if you like. I prefer my players to roll their sleeves up and get on with life. It is not a very pleasant situation for me to deal with but it is something I inherited and I have no control over it."

Despite Wednesday's truce, Collymore's future at Villa Park is unlikely to involve more than a hit-and-run role and Gregory has made it plain more than once that he would prefer to sell him.

"I think maybe this is his best role, as a substitute," Gregory said. "When he came on he definitely gave the crowd a lift and the players on the field a lift.

Whether Collymore would view that as the future he is looking for remains to be seen.



The machinery moves in at Stamford Bridge, where Chelsea yesterday began laying temporary new turf to replace the existing surface. PA

Gritty Gunners ready to pounce

AS ALEX FERGUSON reflected on the state of play in the Premier League championship, he narrowed the list of the most likely suspects to his own Manchester United, Arsenal and Chelsea. "You could toss a coin between all three," he said.

The United manager was viewing the situation from the standpoint of a missed opportunity. If United had beaten Arsenal in rain-sodden Manchester instead of drawing 1-1 on Wednesday night, then the spinning coin would have been weighted in Old Trafford's favour. Instead, Arsenal will view the coming month with optimism.

If the ubiquitous playing field was level, you would expect United to have the resources to make their four-point advantage (albeit with a game in

BY GUY HODGSON

hand tell), but Europe is looming and their lost points this season have tended to cluster around their Champions' League commitments.

Just a look at their six-match programme in 19 days during March - Internationals (home and away), Chelsea (home), Liverpool (away), Newcastle (away) and Everton (home) - is enough to make you feel weary even if you have a squad as strong as Ferguson's.

Chelsea are still involved in the Cup-Winners' Cup. Aston Villa seem to have hit the marathon runner's wall while Arsenal have only domestic issues to concern themselves, which is identical to last season when they swept past a jaded United in the run-in. The rest

factor is a compelling argument in Arsenal's favour and, with an expanded Champions' League next season, we could be entering an era when no team involved in that competition has a hope of winning the Premiership, but the way they played at Old Trafford is the chief reason for hope at Highbury.

True, United would have won the match if Dwight Yorke had converted either a penalty or a close-range chance late in the game, and Arsène Wenger admitted the home team were closer to winning 2-1 than his side, but there was a composure and assurance about the Double winners that looked menacing.

Andy Cole's equaliser was the first Premiership goal the flinty Gunners had conceded since 13 December and

Nicolas Anelka, for all his complaints about life in north London, appears to have regained much from his two goals against England for France. Earlier in the season he looked tentative but there was nothing nervous about his side-foot into the roof of the net past Peter Schmeichel.

David Seaman is another man who has recovered his form. He made four world-class saves at Old Trafford that had Wenger purring: "He is back to his best. He works very hard in training and has gained physical power. He looks tremendously good."

Remember the Arsenal team that matched United blow for blow on their opponents' turf were without arguably their two best players, Dennis Bergkamp and Emmanuel Petit, and while United were

also without Denis Irwin and Ryan Giggs the difference between themselves and their replacements is not as stark.

It would be foolish to discount United, who are the best team in the country, but Ferguson had runmized beforehand that his side's vein of form and Arsenal's absences would make Wednesday a good time to play the Double winners. Yet they only drew.

"In games like these you need players to go that extra distance to be champions," Ferguson said, "and you saw that from both sides. Chelsea are the best team we've played this season but Arsenal are very close."

The problem for United and Chelsea is that Europe will mean the distance they have to travel in the run-in will be further than that faced by Arsenal.



IN THE MARCH ISSUE:

DAVID BOWIE on how he is going to take over the Internet with the launch of Bowlenet.

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DAVID BOWIE on how he is going to take over the Internet with the launch of Bowlenet.

Controversial American film-maker JOHN WATERS on blow jobs, deviant sex and his new film, Pecker.

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COLLYMORE THE OUTSIDER P26 • WYATT'S CONVERSION POINT P22

The England succession: Former Newcastle management team is reunited to take on 'the biggest job in football'

Keegan's brave, brief new world

BY PHIL SHAW

KEVIN KEEGAN would love it, just love it, if he could leave what he describes as "the biggest job in football" after four victories, but the new England coach was adamant last night that even a 100 per cent record would not persuade him to forgo Fulham when his caretaker stint finishes in June.

Keegan, facing the media in a London hotel last night for the first time since accepting the job on a part-time basis, stood firm on his commitment to the Second Division promotion favourites. Yet the 48-year-old former England captain held out the tantalising possibility of returning to lead his country after his contract at Craven Cottage runs out in the summer of 2000.

"Maybe this job will come around again if I do it well, and please God I do," Keegan said as a barrage of flashlights flickered in his face. "That's what I hope, assuming I do a good job. If I don't, it'll never come again."

Pressed as to whether he would really be able to walk away, especially if results were positive, Keegan said: "I said from the start that that's the way it is. What they've got to do in the long term is find the right guy - and that's not me at the moment."

The coach who led England until his dismissal this month, Glenn Hoddle, was often accused of being away with the fairies. Keegan will be away with the Fulham when he might have been expected to be assessing players and future opponents, but he dismissed suggestions that his loyalty to Fulham would hinder his capacity to do the job.

"The most important time will be the six days before the Poland game (on 27 March)," he said. "It may look part-time, but it'll be full-time from Kevin Keegan when it really matters. I don't accept that's a bizarre situation - in fact I believe it's the best situation for England."

Keegan, who recalled that

there is no place in Keegan's brave, brief new world for Hoddle's former deputy, John Gorman. The Scot had stayed on to assist Wilkinson but now leaves the FA payroll.

The new "team behind the team" will have their first test when the Poles come to Wembley for a pivotal European Championship qualifying fixture. A month later, England go to Hungary for a friendly, while Keegan's reign is scheduled to end after further Euro 2000 qualifiers against Sweden and Bulgaria in June.

Admitting he ought really to have been on his way to Kingstonian, where the Polish club Widzew Lodz played last night, Keegan said he could not wait to name his first squad or to greet the players when they turn up for training.

"I know a few of them because I've worked with them before. We've got some great players in this country," he added, reeling off names such as Shearer, Cole, Fowler, Redknapp and Campbell while stressing his eagerness to work with Michael Owen. Intriguingly, Keegan later suggested in a radio interview that Paul Gascoigne was also in his thoughts for the Poland game.

But how would Keegan's England play? "First I like to get a result, whatever people may think. I didn't set to lose 4-3 at Liverpool [with Newcastle] - that's just the way it worked out. It'll be a passionate side and one that will go forward at every opportunity, but hopefully not a naive one."

Patriotism will play a role in his attempts to ensure England play with the pride he showed in the shirt. Franck Leboeuf's aside about the absence of the British bulldog spirit will be pinned on the dressing-room wall, while players would be expected to sing the national anthem. "If you're asking whether I'd drop those who don't join in," he replied: "Can't wait. Can't wait for the players to report fit. Can't wait to pick the team. Can't wait to watch them get out there."

If not quite vented with the same ferocity and lack of cool as Keegan occasionally showed as a manager at Newcastle United, it showed none the less that his enthusiasm for the task in hand runs deep.

If Keegan had not been aware of the level of interest in his appointment before he turned up at the Metropole Hotel in west London, he was

left with few doubts once he arrived at the main entrance, and faced camera crews rushing at him and stills photographers stealing shots as he descended two floors to the basement even before he met the 150-plus journalists. Taking his seat for the first of three grillings - one each at the hands of television, the written press and radio - Keegan sat between David Davies, the FA's acting chief executive, and Howard Wilkinson, the technical director who is now part of his team.

Asked how much he was looking forward to taking charge of the national side - albeit for only four matches - he replied: "Can't wait. Can't wait for the players to report fit. Can't wait to pick the team. Can't wait to watch them get out there."

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Kurds fight back

Sir: Your leading article of 17 February on the Kurds and Turkey was despicable. The violence of a victim in attempting to recover a stolen purse and the violence of a mugger in retaining it are not morally equivalent. The violence of a nation seeking self-determination and freedom and the violence of those who would continue subjugation are not morally equivalent.

You have repeatedly supported the trial of Serb officials for human rights abuses in former Yugoslavia. And your response to equally vicious, equally widespread, but more protracted abuse by the Turkish army? A fast track to membership of the EU.

Your position is not informed by morality but by sensitivity to the strategic alliances of the USA.

ROGER HEADLAND

Pathhead, Midlothian

Sir: We do not yet have all the facts but, on the face of it, the shooting of three Kurds in Berlin must rank as one of the worst abuses of diplomatic immunity since 1945. No doubt those responsible have already been "recalled".

J C MIGHELL

London N5

Sir: The use of your front cover photograph of 17 February, showing a young Kurdish protester ablaze in London, was possibly the most amoral piece of photojournalism I have ever seen.

The photographer was clearly close to the girl. Only the most inhuman and callous among us could stop and take pictures rather than join those who instinctively rushed to help quell those flames. Your paper is condoning and encouraging such behaviour by accepting and printing this photograph. The life of a 15-year-old girl has to be worth more than an award-winning photo or front cover.

JANET LENG

York

Genetic red herring

Sir: The determination of the biotechnology industry to focus discussion on GMOs on the question of food safety is reminiscent of the tobacco industry's reluctance to discuss addiction.

In all probability GMOs are as safe to eat as any mass-produced food these days, tainted as it is with residues of agrichemical toxins, hormones and antibiotics. The question they wish to avoid is whether such foods are beneficial and safe to produce.

Allowing multinational biotechnology companies a measure of control over the production of food staples is in nobody's interest but theirs. The environmental risks are alarming.

JON GRAY

Bath

Sir: We have our labelling back to front. As a consumer I should be able to assume that any food product I buy is made up of wholly natural components grown organically without the use of pesticides or chemical fertilisers and without genetic modification. I should also be able to assume that if a food is tampered with in any way, it would be clearly marked as such.

In fact the reverse is the case.

On the one hand organic suppliers have to jump through hoops to get their food labelled so that we know it is natural, whereas products containing GM foods have found their way on to the shelves with little or no marking at all.

NICK DAVIES

London SW1

Sir: Science cannot "decide what we are to be" (letter, 15 February), but it can answer questions about how useful, or how harmful, particular genetically modified crops might be in particular circumstances. Armed with those answers, governments and consumers can decide for themselves.

But the BSE tragedy has already shown us that sticking our heads in the sand, and not carrying out appropriate research in an



Women in the Ring No 5: Linda van den Berg fights Sonia Daily in the Fitzroy Lodge, Lambeth, south London

David Sandison

atmosphere of openness, is a recipe for disaster.

Publicly funded scientific research by independent scientists is essential for informed decision-making at the end of the 20th century.

DR PETER COTGREAVE

Director, The Save British Science Society

Wigton, Cumbria

IRA arms deadlock

Sir: David McKittrick ("Trimble fights off rebellion", 17 February) reports Gerry Adams as rejecting demands for the decommissioning of IRA weapons with the argument that the transfer of powers is most likely to be the key to resolving the present impasse. Events leading up to the creation of the Assembly suggests that is right.

Decommissioning was bypassed in the Good Friday Agreement because it was evident that it was too difficult a question to resolve. The present peace talks have succeeded thus far only by bypassing the issue. Now they have returned to the main road where decommissioning still lurks and political reason appears to suggest that this is the moment for it to face.

The Taoiseach has taken this line and is attempting to bulldoze the matter through. A harder reality suggests however that it is Gerry Adams who is right. The probability is that he cannot deliver the IRA on decommissioning. If he and Martin McGuinness were to persist in trying to do so, they could well end up as Michael Collins did all those years ago.

We all need to recognise that tough as it may be for David Trimble in his fight against rebellion in his own ranks, his best chance is to argue this reality with them - to get the Assembly going across the whole spectrum of Northern Irish politics and trust that this will marginalise terrorism so that it withers on the vine.

MICHAEL GRAHAM

Tonbridge, Kent

Locking up 'killers'

Sir: It is significant that the Government has proposals which involve imprisonment of psychopaths without trial, before it has in place a Bill of Rights and a Freedom of Information Act.

A government which controls the funding of an institution where such people are detained and those who make the decisions on detention can easily pressure those involved. It has happened in other countries, usually condemned for the contempt of human rights.

The safeguards of an appeals system and regular reviews are illusory if those detained do not have access to legal representation and the funds to call expert witnesses. The Government is currently proposing drastic cuts in staff. Despite this, I have found ONS staff to be unfailingly courteous, friendly and helpful.

As they are disinterested public servants, I have no inhibitions about discussing my business needs and plans with them in detail: I could not have such confidence in a private sector organisation which might be or become a competitor.

for false imprisonment, supported by legal aid, be available to those detained?

These and other questions posed in your correspondence columns demand answers, before legislation is brought before Parliament.

MAYNARD HALL

Wigton, Cumbria

Honest statistics

Sir: Two cheers for your "Outlook" item on the Office for National Statistics (16 February). I'd offer a third if you'd promote the issue to your front page as this is a matter of great importance.

As a small but frequent customer of ONS, I am well aware of their shortcomings, most of which seem to me to stem from inadequate resources and an overstretched staff. Despite this, I have found ONS staff to be unfailingly courteous, friendly and helpful.

As they are disinterested public servants, I have no inhibitions about discussing my business needs and plans with them in detail: I could not have such confidence in a private sector organisation which might be or

I hope that you will continue to campaign to keep ONS firmly within the public service where it belongs, and that you will give the matter more prominence. The Government should not be allowed to get away with a quiet, unnoticed privatisation to save a little money when the real answer is to spend a little more.

PETER GRESHAM

Urbecon Ltd

Social and Economic Research & Consultancy

London W14

Blindly trusting

Sir: How long will it be before governments realise that the appointment of major players in the business world to positions of power is a recipe for disaster?

However fervent the protestations of impartiality and the observance of Chinese Walls in matters affecting their personal and family interests there will always be a grave doubt in the public mind. The much-vaunted "blind trusts" do little to give reassurance. It is, after all, unlikely that Lord Sainsbury, the science minister, finding £10 million pounds flowing into his personal

family accounts at the end of the year, can be in much doubt as to its provenance.

Business men obviously have a role to play in advising government, as do trade unions and many other specialist bodies, as and when the need arises, but this has always been done through the medium of groups such as the CBI rather than by elevating individuals, often unelected, to positions of great power and influence.

At least that system was free from the problem of "conflict of interest" - what a wise adviser who has to leave the room when anything on which he can make real input is discussed?

B J CAIRNS

London N22

Dump or recycle

Sir: Pete Wilkinson (letter, 17 February) assumes that the choice in disposing of disused oil platforms is between dumping them on land or at sea, when in fact the on-land options are for recycling and reuse.

During our 1985 campaign to stop the dumping at sea of the Brent Spar, Greenpeace said that the cumulative effects of such dumping were being ignored by the Government. In 1996 the Government's scientific advisory body agreed with us, saying:

"Continued disposals with small individual impact might give rise to a large overall impact" (Scientific Group on Decommissioning Offshore Structures: First Report 1996).

Last January Shell acknowledged that they could, and would, reuse and recycle the Spar on land as it was the best environmental option. Studies commissioned by them showed that environmentally all of the onshore disposal options were more "net" energy-efficient than deep-sea dumping and had recycling/reuse rates of more than 96 per cent.

SARAH BURTON

Greenpeace UK

London N1

Hereditary role

Sir: As a hereditary peer who has made only a minimal contribution to the business of the House of Lords, I would nevertheless like to make a few observations about the forthcoming Bill to abolish the right of hereditary peers to sit in the Lords and the proposed subsequent Bill to reform the House.

These two issues should be addressed concurrently in one Bill, not two. No reform should occur until or unless it can be established that a more efficient and at least equally cost-effective second chamber would result.

The Lords was crucially reformed by the introduction of appointed life peers in 1958. As the life peers have played an increasingly active and dominant part in the proceedings of the House, so the role of the hereditary peers has diminished, in spite of many distinguished front-bench contributions from them. This gradual metamorphosis raises the question as to whether radical reform is really necessary.

If one of the aims of reform is to create a more democratic House, then on this issue alone the appointed peers have no greater legitimacy to sit than the hereditary peers.

Hereditary peers provide an independent, free-thinking and unprejudiced element. This particularly applies to the substantial number of crossbench peers. In the final analysis all the hereditary peers owe allegiance to no party. The decision by each hereditary peer to take one or other of the party whips is a matter entirely for his or her own conscience. This creates unpredictability in the lobbies and an independence which has served the House of Lords and the country well. This independent spirit, once removed, can never be recreated. This potential loss should not be under-estimated.

The House of Lords, for all its anachronisms, may or may not need radically reforming. That the hereditary peerage no longer has a role to play has yet to be demonstrated.

Viscount HEAD

Bishopstone,

Wiltshire

The real Ali

Sir: In the report "Still the greatest" (18 February), Muhammad Ali is described as "heavy-jowled, impulsive, silent and serious" in contrast to his "jocular character of the Seventies".

Muhammad Ali has Parkinson's disease. This neurologist's condition is not only characterised by muscle tremor; many people with Parkinson's disease also have reduced facial expression because of muscular rigidity. The person underneath this apparently rough exterior is often no different from the person he or she was before developing the disease. The real Muhammad Ali may well be the same jocular boxing hero that he was in the Seventies and not the silent, impulsive man we see.

SIGRID ROBSON

Speech and Language Therapist

London SE4

Choose your trolley

Sir: In my experience, the "overwhelming choice" offered by supermarkets begins before I even go through the door (Editorial, Modern Life, 17 February). Do I choose a hand basket? Or a half-depth trolley? Or a half-depth trolley with built-in shopping list holder (on the rare occasion I remember to bring the list with me)? Then there is the "regular deep" trolley. The "regular deep" plus new-born baby seat". Or the "regular deep plus older-toddler seat (with or without safety strap). Alternatively, I could have the "regular deep plus baby plus toddler seats".

When I go with my mum to her local supermarket I can have my own scanner attached to all or any of the above....

VICKI ANDERSON

York

Woke up this afternoon with them old jazz-lover's blues

"AND THE WORST is, they're trying to put modern jazz on the juke box in my pub! Modern jazz! What a racket! What a bloody awful racket! Nobody likes it! I mean, even the people that like it don't really like it! They say they like it but they don't! The musicians make it up as they go along, they tell me. Well, where's the bloody skill in that?"

Thus, more or less, Al Murray is a comedian who is touring his one-man show *Late Lock-In '99*, in which he impersonates a pub landlord who is a sort of nephew of Al Garnett, but a lot funnier and more inventive. Garnett would never have bothered to attack modern jazz. Pop music, maybe. But Al Murray has a real go at modern jazz, and although I am a jazz devotee I laughed like a drain when I heard him at the Mer-

lin Theatre, Falmouth, on Wednesday, partly because Al Murray is a very funny man and partly because it was actually so nice to hear anyone mention jazz at all.

Pathetic, isn't it? Jazz fans have this perpetual ghetto feeling, a feeling of being misunderstood and ignored and undervalued, which I share along with the rest of them, and when we see huge pop music award ceremonies with gold medals being doled out to humdrum musicians playing and singing very simple, popcorn music, and grown-up men and women pretending to respect it, we sigh and wonder if jazz will ever get that kind of recognition. The answer, by the way, is No.

Generally, if we have any sense,

we jazz people keep quiet because we jazz people sound like culture whingers, like all those opera people pleading for another trillion pounds - blimey, if jazz worldwide had the sort of money which is spent on just one opera house, we'd be laughing - so we don't whinge, and no nobody pays us any attention, so then we have to whinge about it...

This ghetto-mentality has been around a long time. My memory was jolted the other day by spotting *The Sweet Smell of Success* in the TV film schedules. I remember reading the *Melody Maker* as a kid in the 1950s, back when it had decent jazz coverage, and noticing a lot of fuss being made about a film called *The Sweet Smell of Success*. Film fans will know it as a blistering satire on the world of PR, media gossip, etc, with wonderful performances by Burt

Lancaster and Tony Curtis, but none of that was mentioned by the *MM*. All they could mention was the participation of the Chico Hamilton Quintet, a chamber jazz group very popular at the time, who, it was rumoured, were being given big roles. So it came as something as a shock when I finally saw the film and found that the Quintet only appeared briefly, as a band with which one of the minor characters was working, and that Chico's part was limited to a line like "Hi, how're you doing?"

But we were grateful. Better one line than being ignored. Better being insulted by Al Murray than being forgotten. Better being interviewed by George Melly than not at all...

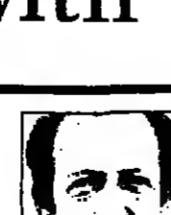
Well, I'm not so sure about that.

George Melly, you see, has a little ghetto spot on Radio Two where for half an hour he is allowed to talk to unlikely people about their taste in jazz, and get them to play a few classic jazz records. Kenneth Clarke's been on, and Michael Heath the cartoonist, and Ian Dury. Good people. But the other day he had Polly Toynbee on and it was a disaster. Or maybe it was very funny. I'm not sure.

You see, at the start of the programme she said she had made a very eclectic choice of records, and she was right. It was so eclectic that almost none of the records she chose was anywhere near jazz. The opener was a Glenn Miller recording, which was superior dance music. She went on to the Watters (folk) and Bobby Short (straight cabaret) and Charles Trenet (pure French chanson) and George Melly (which is a bit nearer to jazz), and George Melly was politely flabbergasted. When he in-

quired how Trenet, though jolly nice, could possibly be jazz, Polly Toynbee said she saw him as the European equivalent of Cole Porter. "Would you call Cole Porter jazz?" she asked. Being too gallant to say you couldn't compare an American songwriter who didn't sing to a French chansonnier, George contented himself with saying that it depended entirely on who was singing. "Cole Porter interpreted by Ethel Merman isn't jazz by Ella Fitzgerald it usually is..."

"Ah, I'm beginning to see what the rules are," said Polly Toynbee. Too late. Toynbee. All of us still listening out in jazz land were wringing our hands and lamenting the waste of another valuable half hour of jazz time. God, what whingers we are. How Al Murray would have laughed.



MILES KINGTON

If jazz worldwide had the sort of money which is spent on just one opera house, we'd be laughing

EVER SINCE Sir Michael Jackson has been granted a royal warrant of appointment as a knight of the Royal Household, the Queen has been more than ever determined to make sure that he is properly honoured. In fact, when he became a

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Time to have a go at Jack Straw for this daft notion

THE HOME Secretary is in some ways an excellent politician. He shares with Jeff Rooker the Agriculture Minister and hero of the airwaves this week, the distinction of knowing what he thinks and knowing why he thinks it, which makes him stand out in a sea of ministers parroting sound bites as they try to remember what they are supposed to be saying.

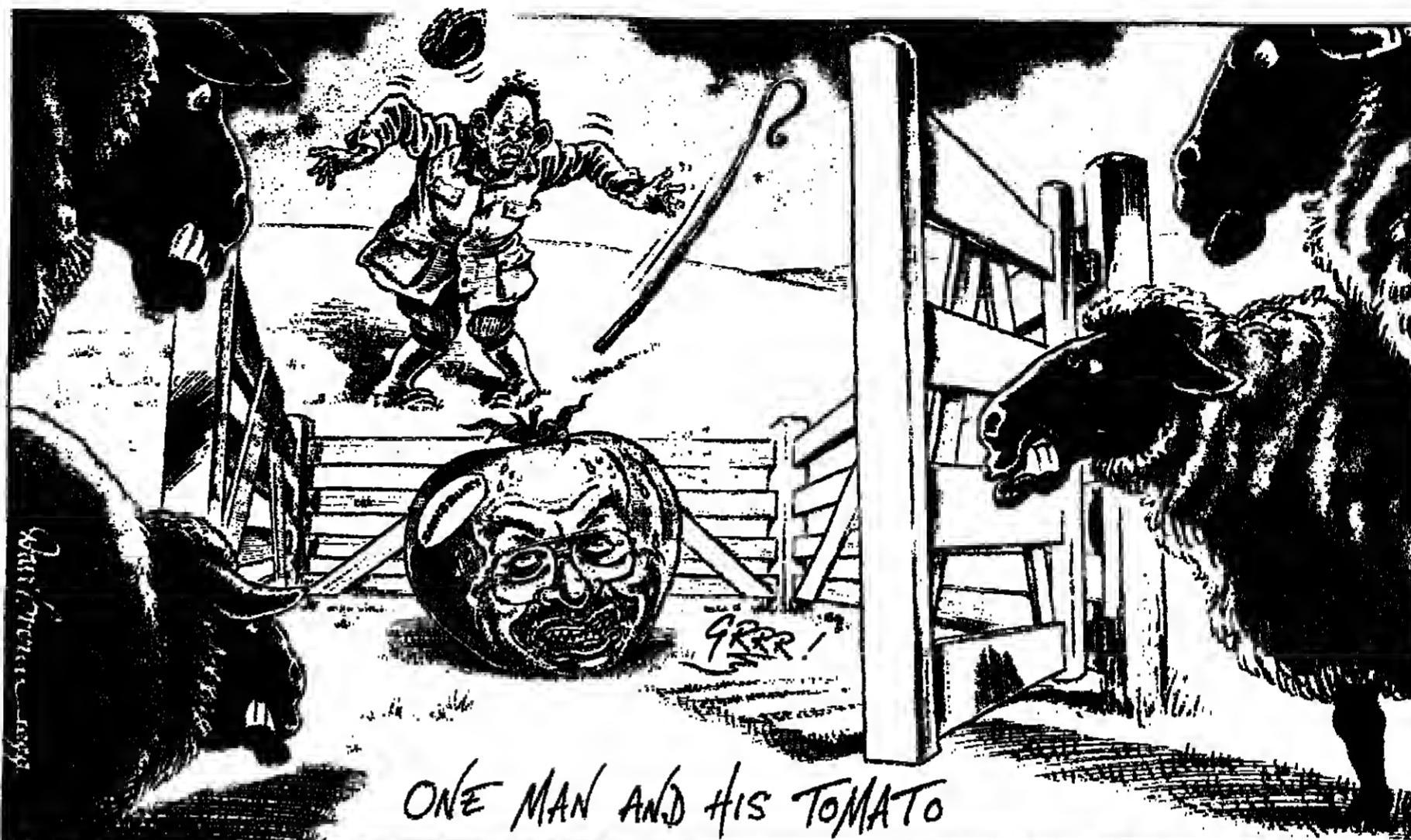
At least we know, then, where we stand with the Home Secretary. And much of what he says and does is admirable. But far too much is tinged with an illiberalism which assumes that the police and other agents of the state are always and everywhere a benign and error-free force.

Much of his speech yesterday was thoughtful, especially its concern to deal with the real corrosion of quality of life, which is the fear of crime rather than disorder itself. But his comments on the "walk on by" society, however well-intentioned, were unwise. This may be a telling commentary on the present state of public incivility, but his suggestion that people should "intervene" when they see a group of 11- or 12-year-olds vandalising a telephone box was unrealistic. The reason why most people do not take the law into their own hands in such situations is that they are too well aware of the risks of violence, with or without the use of weapons. It is all very well for Stalwart Straw to boast about his citizen's arrests and his rugby-tackling of fleeing thieves. Most women and old people, quite sensibly, would not even consider asking someone politely not to smoke on a train.

It is not surprising that senior police officers contradicted him, urging people not to intervene but to call the police and be prepared to give evidence in court – important civic duties that are also neglected, and to which Mr Straw could more usefully have addressed himself.

At the heart of Mr Straw's folly is the slippery slope argument, which is just as much a fallacy whether the slope is from soft drugs to hard, or from dropping litter to petty crime. "Zero tolerance" is a fine slogan but a hopeless policy; police resources and time have to be prioritised. If every public display of high spirits or of minor disrespect for authority were treated as the beginning of a career in crime, we should all soon find ourselves under surveillance.

Many people – perhaps especially those young enough not to remember them – feel mournfully nostalgic for the days when pensioners could tick off a 15-year-old and be respected because they knew them, or were related to them. And there is much wrong with the coarseness, rudeness and unloveliness of many of our fellow-citizens' public behaviour. But the idea of self-appointed Jack Straws bossing everyone about and marching people they do not like the look of down to the police station would be far from an improvement.



No stability for Africa until Mr Mugabe goes

GREAT ZIMBABWE was one of the glories of ancient Africa. Modern Zimbabwe is one of its disgraces. And this is due to one man – Robert Mugabe, who has reigned there since he helped to end white rule in 1980. Mr Mugabe has been correctly criticised for pursuing land reform without paying proper compensation to the white minority that owns most of the country's land. But even this high-handed action pales in comparison with his campaign to undermine the rule of law and silence all opposition in his one-party state. Recently, soldiers have seized, and allegedly tortured, journalists who reported on army disaffection about Mr Mugabe's campaign in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo. When Zimbabwe's supreme court judges protested against these illegal arrests, Mr Mugabe

went on television and told them to resign. He even accused "British agents" of trying to undermine the state.

Mr Mugabe has behaved despotically before. In 1987, he abolished the reserved seats for whites in the parliament. He then decided that being Prime Minister wasn't enough and took over presidential powers when President Canaan Banana resigned. The Rev Banana has been the object of a nasty campaign in which Mugabe has accused him of being "lower than pigs and dogs".

The Zimbabwean Acting High Commissioner implied in yesterday's *Independent* that his country has fair elections. Not so. They are a joke. Only three of the 150 members of parliament are outside Mugabe's party. His "elections" would have impressed the old Soviet rulers, so efficient are they in delivering the desired result.

These abuses cannot be ignored. Mr Mugabe has enjoyed the tolerance of the West because it felt that it should not criticise Zimbabwe while racists ruled South Africa. Nelson Mandela's presidency has changed all that.

Instead of co-operating with Mandela to bring stability to southern Africa, Zimbabwe, a vital strategic power, has now become a force for bad in the region. Mr Mugabe has sent an army into Congo to prop up Laurent Kabila's regime because Mr Kabila has given Mugabe's nephew valuable mining rights. These actions serve only to encourage all those in the West who say we should ignore Africa now that there is no obvious interest to be served by intervention.

So where do we go from here? Land reform, if carried out in a democratic manner, is a just cause and could be of international benefit. If tobacco plantations, for instance, were to be replaced by food crops, many of us would applaud. However, Mr Mugabe must carry out any further reform according to his recent agreement with the International Monetary Fund. Furthermore, Mr Mugabe has had a sufficient crack of the whip. He should stand down at the country's elections next year. In the meantime, he should strengthen democracy by allowing the courts and reporters to go about their lawful business.

What is to be done with the helpless and hapless Mr Hague?

IF SOME latter day Flaubert were to write a modern British version of the great man's *Dictionary of Received Ideas*, that wonderful bible of all the most unoriginal but seemingly knowledgeable things to say in bourgeois society, the entry for the Conservative Party would write itself: "Busted flush. Hopeless case. Racked by division. Obliterated by Tony Blair."

It is indeed the Received Wisdom of the day. It has stubbornly survived the skirmishes over Genetically Modified food and crops, in which John Redwood – and, for that matter, William Hague – has embarrassed the government. It survives Hague's undoubtedly skilful and effective performances at the dispatch box every Wednesday against the Prime Minister. It has survived a modest recovery in local council by-elections. And it has survived one of the most unexpected reassessments in recent history, the blossoming of Ann Widdecombe.

The assumption that the unenviable plight of the Conservative Party is a necessary consequence of the times is an easy one to make. It is, if anything, reinforced by Central Office figures designed to demonstrate that the party has been bobbing at or under 30 per cent since Black Wednesday and that therefore William Hague cannot be blamed for the party's failure to make more headway.

It makes sense of what appears to be Hague's strategy of taking few risks, particularly any which might alienate the party's right wingers who formed the bulk of his support when he became leader after the 1997 election, to await a general elec-

tion in which the law of the political cycle dictates that his party cannot fail to do better than it did in 1997, and to coast to better times.

There are, however, faults in this prescription. The remarkable fact that it is the Conservative Party and not the government which is suffering from mid-term doldrums is not quite so inevitable as the defeatists in its own ranks assume. It could make a start by pursuing the doctrine that the duty of opposition is to oppose. Take the Commons debate on House of Lords reform this week, the most recent and dismal example of the Opposition's failure to oppose. The debate was interesting, perhaps the first occasion since the general election when the Commons, across party divisions, began to stir.

Several speeches, and two in particular that by the Labour QC Robert Marshall-Andrews, and an equally thoughtful though less entertaining one by the young Tory back-bencher Andrew Tyrie, a Hague loyalist, pointed the way to making common cause against the government's relentlessly minimalist approach to Lords reform in general, and the dangers of Prime Ministerial patronage.

Moving an amendment which would have deprived Prime Ministers of much of their power to appoint life peers, Tyrie rehearsed the long list of Conservatives "including Curzon, Churchill, FE Smith, and Lord Carrington" who had been, like Tyrie himself, in favour of an elected Upper House. If the Tory front bench had



DONALD MACINTYRE

Remarkably, it is the Conservatives and not the government suffering from mid-term doldrums

joined forces with Marshall-Andrews, it would not have defeated the Government.

But it would have done a lot to damage the credibility of a reform which may yet leave the Lords in largely appointed hands. So what does the Tory front bench do? It presses a hopeless amendment which proposes that all hereditary peers should retain the right to speak, though not to vote, and to continue to use its club facilities. Not content with that, it does not make any serious attempt to halt the progress of the Government's bill.

Next week, the Tory hereditary peers will back a bland anti-patronage amendment, but in the certain knowledge that the defeat will be merely symbolic. Mr Hague had an opportunity to present himself as more democratic and progressive than Mr

Blair, and attract support from Labour MPs in the process. And he threw it away. Having sacked Lord Cranborne for making a deal with Mr Blair which, while ending the hereditary principle, will preserve temporary voting rights for 91 hereditary peers, Mr Hague then dragoons his MPs into conduct which ensures that the same deal will become law. This is known as having the worst of both worlds.

It is also not the way to make a difference. What's more, it is one of several respects in which Mr Hague can unfavourably be compared with Kenneth Clarke, another Tory who has incidentally "come out" in favour of an elected chamber, and comparing Mr Hague unfavourably with Mr Clarke is once again a fashionable activity in several Tory circles.

If you doubt that the Tories could be doing better than they are, simply consider what life would be like if Mr Clarke were leading the party. Mr Clarke's robust attack from the back-benches in a recent health debate is only a taste of what he might achieve from the dispatch box. The common assumption is that a Eurosceptic Tory party would never turn to Mr Clarke. But desperate times make desperate men. Especially as on Europe – enthusiasm for which is Mr Clarke's most signal handicap as a potential leader of today's Tory party – he would allow the party to agree to differ until an EMU referendum. He is, in other words, still dangerous.

That said, no doubt Mr Hague is still highly unlikely to be toppled this side of an election. Only a wholesale failure to improve the Tory vote in this year's Scottish, Welsh and European elections would make him seriously vulnerable. But assuming that he survives those elections, and even modestly improves his standing in them, there are still fallacies in the strategy of appealing the right until the next general election.

Some Tory MPs, shaken by the votes the Referendum Party managed to shave off them in the 1997 election, claim to be worried about the electoral threat from parties on the right. But if the polling by the renegade pro-European MEPs John Stevens and Brendan Donnelly shows anything, it is that the real threat is on the pro-European left: the fact that 13 per cent of electors would support a pro-European "New Conservative Party" led by Clarke and Michael Heseltine suggests that Tory supporters are a lot more favourably inclined towards EMU than Tory activists.

The problem for Mr Hague is what one or two of his opponents are now gleefully calling the "double whammy" – that he loses, though not disastrously, the general election and then an EMU referendum as well. At which point the pro-Europeans, including Mr Clarke, who would still only be 61 after a referendum in the year 2001, might well be able to reclaim, and largely reunite, their party.

They would have been proved right, and the Tory Eurosceptics wrong. Don't forget: this may be less than four years away. It helps to explain why Mr Clarke has no intention of leaving the Tory party at present; and why Mr Hague needs to do some thinking pretty fast, and not only about Europe.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Not many people wanted the job."
Noel White,
Chairman of the FA's International Committee

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Fiction is obliged to stick to possibilities. Truth isn't."
Mark Twain,
American author

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MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

American press comment on the possibility of Hillary Clinton standing for the Senate

EVER SINCE Sexgate erupted, Mrs Clinton has been sheltered from tough questions and granted a zone of privacy out of sympathy for her ordeal as the wronged wife. Even before, she was more sheltered from the press than her predecessor, Barbara Bush. Mrs Clinton hosts gossip columnists or gives controlled interviews to friendly columnists who are unlikely to press her on messy issues, such as how she turned \$1,000 into \$100,000 on cattle

factures. All that ends if the president's wife becomes a candidate in her own right.

New York Post

If we were laying odds, we'd be giving 5-2 against it ever happening. Mud-slinging with other candidates would do little to enhance Mrs Clinton's reputation. Her political and personal failings would all be re-examined. Right now, she is the stand-up, hard-bitten, long-suffering wife of a self-

acknowledged cad. When and if she becomes the tough and combative candidate, she isn't likely to remain nearly as popular as she is today.

Delaware County Daily

THE IDEA of a race between mayor Rudolph Giuliani and Hillary Clinton is so tasty that even the first hints of a speculation of a possibility created headlines. Now that Hillary is

officially considering the idea, political junkies are in a full-blown frenzy. This is the sort of contest that election scenarios live for. It could even actually overshadow the presidential contest.

San Francisco Examiner

SHE WOULD be the target of intense criticism stemming from her husband's misbehaviour. Her loyalty to her husband despite his sexual escapades might endear her to some voters but alienate others. The idea might work in New York. We doubt that it would fly in Texas.

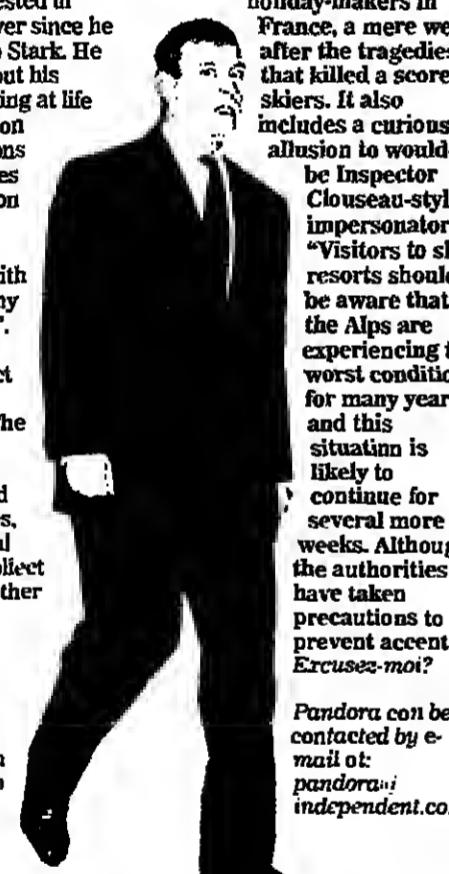
Lubbock Avalanche Journal

PANDORA

PADDY ASHDOWN's chances of taking the post of EU Foreign Policy "tsar" are firming up, following rumours that he will give up his Yeovil seat in the summer. There is a growing list of names interested in succeeding Paddy in Yeovil. His former aide Alan Leaman is tipped to run for selection, with other names being bandied around including Jane Bonham-Carter, a former party communications chief and friend of Derek Draper; Mike Hoban, who came within 2,000 votes of unseating Tom King in Bridgewater at the last general election; and Ruth Coleman, a North Wiltshire Councillor who is seen as a counterweight to Lib-Laberry. The list of those interested in Paddy's Yeovil bastion seems likely to stretch as long as the list for the Lib Dem leadership. Soon there may not be anyone left in the party who has not tried to fill Paddy's shoes in some way.

JEFFREY ARCHER appears to have surpassed himself in the populus stakes. Lord Archer has "imitated" a Private Member's Bill from the Conservative MP Christopher Fraser which curbs the problem of utility companies digging up roads. The main thrust of the Bill appeared in Wednesday's *Evening Standard* as Archer's "brimchild". The RAC, which was backing the Bill, takes a different view. The head of campaigns, Edmund King, told *Pandora*: "Lord Archer seems to have 'reinvented' our plans. Imitation is still the most sincere form of flattery, but when you're in a hole, don't dig." An Archer spokesman responded: "The difference is, our idea has teeth and will work."

PRINCE ANDREW (pictured) has been interested in photography ever since he was dating Koo Stark. He has spoken about his interest in looking at life through a lens on several occasions and says he likes "to take common sights from a different viewpoint, or with something funny on top of them". But there is a little-known fact about his photography. The Duke is a director of a company called Killy Associates, whose principal activity is to collect royalties and other payments "in respect of the publication of photographs taken by the Duke of York". All profits from this venture go to charity. However, the



Pandora can be contacted by e-mail at: pandora@independent.co.uk

company reports for 1997 and 1998 show that His Royal Highness sold the princely total of precisely - nil photographs. Pandora tried to contact the company to see which photographs were on sale and whether she could do the Prince a favour by actually buying any, but the company has no telephone number listed. Could this be why the photos aren't selling?

PANDORA'S AWARD for parliamentary put-down of the week goes to the former attorney general, Sir Nicholas Lyell. In a debate on the House of Lords, Lyell took an intervention from Peter Mandelson, to which Lyell replied: "Occasionally, I have wondered whether I might come across an old lady with a spinning-wheel in some high room in this House, and now I have come across her."

THE MESSAGES floating around the Conde Nast message system often offer wonderful goodies for sale, many of which would appeal only to the Alice-band brigade at Vogue house. Earlier this week the system buzzed with news from Moscow: "Gucci suit for sale, £250, double-breasted, bargain price, perfect except for a small bullet hole due to Russian Mafia." The suit went in, er, a shot, but other gems still on offer include peacocks - apply to *House and Garden* - and the entire edition of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* offered for £1,000, "sale due to marriage," runs the ad. "Wife knows everything."

THE FOREIGN Office has been under fire in recent weeks from the travel industry for the quality of its official travel advice. Yesterday it published the latest warning for winter holiday-makers in France, a mere week after the tragedies that killed a score of skiers. It also includes a curious allusion to would-be Inspector Clouseau-style impersonators: "Visitors to ski resorts should be aware that the Alps are experiencing the worst conditions for many years and this situation is likely to continue for several more weeks. Although the authorities have taken precautions to prevent accidents." *Excusez-moi?*

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The lure of the cinematic cliché



PHILIP HENSHER

Art is parochial, and something goes terribly wrong with it when it tries to cross borders

I'VE GOT a very bad feeling about *Shakespeare in Love*. Not about the film itself, which is as good as everyone says, and deftly skirts all those heritage-England problems. Rather, it is the terrible prospect of its triumphing at the Oscars, and the sort of film that everyone will then be encouraged to start making.

There is a strong risk that English film-makers, in search of a repeat miracle, are going to turn back towards the classically historical movie. Because that is what England means. Not to the English, but it's certainly what England means to Hollywood, to America, to most of the world.

Art, in the end, is parochial, and something goes terribly wrong with it when it tries to cross borders.

It is a strong risk that English film-makers, in search of a repeat miracle, are going to turn back towards the classically historical movie. Because that is what England means. Not to the English, but it's certainly what England means to Hollywood, to America, to most of the world.

If you want to make your appeal international, you paradoxically have to narrow your range, and simplify and blunt what you want to say. And this has happened across the film industry in a particular way.

The economics of the industry mean that a film has to have some possibility of worldwide distribution; and the best chance of achieving that is to try to say only one thing, to sell your English film on the basis of its Englishness and forget those who don't get your jokes and can't tell you the name of your Prime Minister.

If you want to see what happens to a film industry when it starts to think that the opinions of foreigners are of any value or interest, you have

only to look at the decline of the Italian film industry over the last 20 or 30 years. In the Sixties, Italian films were the strongest and most inventive in Europe. Fellini, Visconti, Pasolini, Rossellini and dozens of others were working at full imaginative stretch. And they were making films almost entirely for a domestic audience, with the intention of pleasing minds that were like their own. I can't believe that the makers of *Rocco and His Brothers* and *Juliet of the Spirits* wasted five minutes wondering what Americans would think of their films. They are products of a culture, not attempts to produce a palatable image that will make sense in Idaho.

It really makes you weep to look at the incredible rubbish that represents the Italian film industry now.

The industry has been encouraged, by the half-witted enthusiasm of Hollywood, to lobotomise itself. Films after film sets up a picture-postcard image of Italian life, where everyone is your friend and the clown wipes away the little boy's tear. *Cinema Paradiso*, *Il Postino*, and now that of a film of terrible, bland predictability, or a film that reproduces the most widely-held idea of a particular nationality.

No one could make *Rocco and*

Americans seem to expect when they go and see an Italian movie.

But the problem is not that Americans are stupid, but that, across the world, films are being made with an eye on what will make sense in a whole range of cultures.

It is an economic decision which has been as much a disaster for the American film as for smaller national industries. Once, an American film was made up of jokes which Americans would get, and the result was *All About Eve*; now, it has to make sense to Germans, and Koreans, and films are made in which a father is reincarnated as a snowman.

They are equivalents of the *Ferrero Rocher* TV ad: they make some kind of sense everywhere, and perfect sense absolutely nowhere.

No national film industry is content, it seems, to make films that aim primarily at the national audience. They seem to want to make a film that will make as much sense in Kuala Lumpur as in Kansas or Kensington. And the result is either a film of terrible, bland predictability, or a film that reproduces the most widely-held idea of a particular nationality.

His Brothers now, because, as everyone knows from the movies, Italians don't struggle for their rights; they lie about all day eating olives in the sun. What the English are about, if we listen to Hollywood, is *History and Class*; *Shakespeare and Queen*; *Elizabeth and Victoria*.

It's far too late to do anything about the Italian film, but the British film industry is still strong enough to make an effort and stick to its guns. Of course, it's nice when someone notices what you're doing, and we ought to be pleased that Americans are getting some sort of pleasure out of an English film. But the opinion of Americans should be of absolutely no interest to us, and the British film shouldn't make much of an effort to second-guess what will appeal outside Britain.

We shall start making good films when we make films which please us, not by presenting cute, 90-minute images of Englishness to the outside world. It hasn't happened yet; but it would be really very beneficial all round if *Shakespeare in Love* didn't make a clean sweep at the Oscars. This is a very good film, but I promise you, what would follow in its wake would be quite unspeakably awful.

We should recycle the dead to help the living



JOHN HARRIS

Why should people be allowed to bury or burn the bodies of their relatives when they die?

THERE IS a crisis in organ donation. In the UK, around 5000 people a year need kidneys alone, and there are fewer than half the number of donors registered to meet the demand. Worse, 30 per cent of relatives of people who have died refuse to allow organs to be used. This means that many hundreds of people are dying every year for want of donor organs in the UK alone. Worldwide, it is a major problem with 50,000 people waiting for organs in the US and 70,000 in India.

The donor-card scheme is clearly failing us all. We must get away from the idea that people can allow their bodies and those of their relatives to be simply buried or burned when they die. This is a terrible and cruel waste of organs and tissue that may save life or restore health.

The problem is that we, as a society, have leant over backwards to make sure that potential donors and their relatives are protected against anything that might cause them distress or unease. But the same consideration has not been shown to potential organ recipients and their families. Both are entitled to our concern. There are then two groups of people we must consider: donors and recipients. If we ask what each group stands to lose if their preferences are not respected, we get very different answers. One group stands to lose their lives. The other group has already lost theirs and, at worst, will know prior to death that one of the many things they want will not come to pass.

One way of expressing an equality of concern for both groups of people, bearing in mind what both stand to lose, would be to ensure, through legislation, that all organs from dead bodies should be automatically available at death without any consent being required. The dead, after

all, have no further use for their organs; the living do.

Such a proposal, if accepted, would mean that virtually all cadaver organs were automatically available and doctors would not have to ask dying people if they consent to their organs being used. Neither would they have to ask grieving relatives such a difficult question at perhaps the worse possible moment.

People think that there would be many religious objections to such a simple proposal. This seems doubtful since there has never been an outcry against the present system in which coroners may order post-mortem examinations of the dead without any consent being required.

No one may opt out and there is no provision for conscientious objection. Moreover, as is now well known, organs are often removed during such examinations and not replaced. We have all accepted that there is an important public interest at stake here. It matters very much both that

murders do not go undetected and that illnesses and accidents that cause death be properly understood so that others may be protected. There is a clear and important public interest here. But how much more so in the case of organ donation. Organs are required to save life, not merely to explain suspicious deaths. If there is a public interest in the one case, there is surely also a strong public interest in providing donor organs to save lives.

Some fears have been expressed that if organs can be automatically used, doctors may have less incentive to strive to keep people alive if there are people waiting to receive organs. There are two important things to note about such fears. The first is that there is absolutely no evidence that people who currently carry donor cards have ever been given anything other than the best possible care because they are eligible as donors. But perhaps even more crucial - if people are worried about their chances of survival - is the fact that they are more likely at the moment to need an organ and not get it than to be ill and not properly treated. So prudential self-interest also supports the automatic availability of cadaver organs.

Some people will have strong objections to their bodies being tampered with after death. Then we have a hard choice to make. It is surely far from clear that people are entitled to conscientiously object to practices that will save innocent lives. However, if we make sure that conscientious objection really is just that, and apply tests comparable to those for people who claim conscientious exemption from military service in time of war, it is likely that the exceptions will be sufficiently few for such hard choices to be avoided. We may note that there is no provision, so far as I am aware, for conscientious objection to compulsory post-mortem examinations.

The crunch, of course, comes when this is not the case and conscientious objection will cost lives. Then we have a hard choice to make. It is surely far from clear that people are entitled to conscientiously object to practices that will save innocent lives. However, if we make sure that conscientious objection really is just that, and apply tests comparable to those for people who claim conscientious exemption from military service in time of war, it is likely that the exceptions will be sufficiently few for such hard choices to be avoided. We may note that there is no provision, so far as I am aware, for conscientious objection to compulsory post-mortem examinations.

Fully consensual schemes are always best. But when so much is at stake, we must consider even mandatory schemes. The scheme that I have proposed will save lives, and the costs, while significant, are not incompatible with the values of a decent democratic society - as coroner ordered post-mortem examinations demonstrate.

John Harris is Sir David Alliance Professor of Bioethics at the University of Manchester and a former member of the BMA's ethics committee



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The modernisation of the police



PODIUM

IAN BLAIR
From a speech by the
chief constable of the
Surrey Police to the
Social Market
Foundation, London

THE LEVEL of debate about what kind of police force we need and what kind of police force we have is now very significant and will reach a climax next week with the publication of the Macpherson report on the death of Stephen Lawrence. I do not know what is in that report and I would not want to be drawn on its conclusions; however, there are one or two obvious resonances and I will try to make clear my beliefs about those.

The second paragraph of the 1993 White Paper on Police Reform issued by the last government stated that "the main job of the police is to catch criminals". In contrast, the overarching purpose of the police service issued by the present administration is: "To build a safe, just and tolerant society, in which the rights and responsibilities of individuals, families and communities are properly balanced, and the protection and security of the public are maintained".

There could scarcely be a better simile for the culture of the police: at its best, brave - sometimes, heart-stoppingly brave - capable, imperious, offering equality of treatment before the law, a safe haven.

We all know of examples of police culture at its worst, but, even at its best, it is not best fitted to handle the disparate and shifting requirements of

modern society. So if there is modernisation to do, it is here. This is not about race, solely. It is about the mindset of the organisation. Talking to women officers, for instance, and as a generalisation, I find that they clearly feel that they have to adapt to a male ethos.

Only just now, in my force, are gay and lesbian officers feeling confident enough to "come out". So, in my opinion, the issue of race, which appears likely to be so central to the debate after Macpherson, needs to be in the wider context of an overall working culture which, quite frankly, is now old-fashioned.

Last summer, I made a speech which called for a new partnership in community safety between local authorities, the police and, perhaps, the private security industry. While they work among the community, the police are in fact isolated in their training, in their accountability, in their methods of working, in their pride. The post-Macpherson era is one in which this just will not do and, in that "just will not do-ness," the last element of modernisation to which I want to refer is the governance and operating systems of the police.

In a post-modern society, we need to consider whether the separation of the ways of governance of the police service from those used in the rest of local government remains as sensible as it once was.

We need to consider whether the great totum of the operational independence of chief constables - which has been used to keep police authorities at a suitable dis-

tance - is as all-encompassing as it has been claimed to be.

We need to consider whether police managers need to be trained separately from their colleagues in local government, from the fire service, from the ambulance service. We need to examine whether the outmoded labour relations framework in which the police operate is appropriate.

The Government has launched itself upon something that is referred to as "The Project" - for the modernisation of Britain. In terms of crime and policing, there were manifesto commitments on drugs, on youth crime, on community crime reduction and the Crime and Disorder Act is a substantial step forward in this direction) and on police efficiency.

Despite much effort, the police service has not thought through the consequences, the implications, the requirements of modernity. It needs to do so now. If modernisation is to happen, the police need help. In order to help with enquiries, you need to invite the cops in from the cold.

Joan Curran

IN THE summer parliamentary recess shortly after I was elected as MP for West Lothian in 1962, I was invited to lunch by Sam Curran, then the Principal of the Royal College of Science and Technology in Glasgow, as a new Scottish MP interested in science. On the right-hand side of our hostess, opposite me, was placed R.V. Jones, the Assistant Director of Intelligence – and from 1946 to 1952 Director of Intelligence – at the Air Ministry. Our seemingly reticent hostess listened politely to Jones's conversation, spattered as it was with technical illusions. She said little and nodded sagely. After lunch Jones said to me, "I saw you wondering. No mere dutiful wife she! In my opinion, Joan Curran made an even greater contribution to victory in 1945 than Sam."

As M.R.D. Foot put it, opening Jones's own obituary [19 December 1997], "R.V. Jones was one of the main wizards during the secret war against Hitler; became a pillar of scientific education, and wrote some notable books." Jones was in a position to know.

As I got to know the Currants better, Sam never missed the opportunity to point out that Joan had indeed made a greater contribution than he had in his work previous to or during the Manhattan Project, and was a formidable scientist in her own right. In old age the way in which they looked after each other in their Glasgow Anniesland flat was rather sweet. When I was writing an obituary in a hurry of their friend Sir Nevill Mott [12 August 1996], I phoned Sam and he said, "I cannot talk to you until after half an hour. I'm doing my morning bathing of Joan's eyes."

Joan Strothers was born in Swansea, the daughter of an optician. Later at the Cavendish Laboratory and throughout her working life she had the reputation of being outstandingly neat and skilful in the deployment of equipment. She had the scientific equivalent of gardening green fingers which she would modestly attribute to her father's interest in her education. From Swansea Girls' High School she went up to Newnham College, Cambridge, on an open scholarship in 1933. Encouraged by the Newnham tutor A.C. Davies, after graduation she went to the Cavendish and was assigned to a group working under Philip Dee. In this group was the young Sam Curran with whom she had a romance which was to end in 58 years of supremely successful marriage.

On the outbreak of war the group went to Swanage and then to the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough, where other physicists included Philip Dee, Bernard Lovell and Alan Hodgkin.

R.V. Jones, in his book *Most Secret War* (1978), identifies the "two major possibilities" for their countermeasures against the Luftwaffe as "jamming" and "spurious reflectors". "Jamming," he writes,

appealed to me less, because it was cruder and moreover would jeopardise any aircraft carrying a jammer because it could be homed on by fighters carrying suitable receivers. Spurious reflectors would be simpler, and contained an element of noise.

Spurious reflectors, to the development of which Joan Curran was so successfully to apply her technical dexterity, he explains as follows:

The phenomenon on which they depended was that of resonance. If a reflector is made of a simple wire or strip of metal of length equal to half the wave-

Curran had the scientific equivalent of green fingers.

This she attributed to the interest her father, an optician, took in her education

length used by the radar station, it resonates to the incoming radio waves and re-radiates them to an effect that it is roughly equivalent to a whole sheet of metal whose dimensions are small, and which has sides equal in length to half a wavelength. Thus a few hundred such strips or wires would reflect as much energy as a whole Lancaster bomber.

Originally I suggested that wires should be suspended from balloons, because the long wavelengths that were usual in 1937 would require lengths of at least 10ft; but we found that the predominant wavelength in the German radar that we had to counter were about 50cm, so each wire or strip need only be 25cm long, and could be made light enough to fall through the air at a slow rate, and thus remain active for many minutes.

They did not get the immediate go-ahead for the use of the reflectors, however. It was not until 1941, as their knowledge of German radar grew, that Jones persuaded Churchill's adviser Frederick Lindemann to allow trials. These were undertaken, in late 1941 and early 1942, under Robert Cockburn's direction at Swanage by Mrs Joan Curran. "Her results were all that we expected," Jones recalled,

and she tried various forms of reflector ranging from wires to leaflets, each roughly the size of a page in a notebook, on which, as a refinement, propaganda



Curran making a presentation to the Children's Hospital of Warsaw, at Strathclyde University, in 1979. Behind her sits her husband, Sir Sam Curran, the university's first Principal

could be printed. The form that we finally favoured was a strip about 25cm long and between 1cm and 2cm wide. The material was produced and made up into packets each weighing about a pound, and the idea was that the leading aircraft in a bomber stream would throw them out at the rate of one every 10 seconds, to produce the radar equivalent of a smokescreen, through which succeeding aircraft could fly. So much progress was made, after the years of delay, that by April 1942 enough material had been produced for it to be used by Bomber Command. It was given the code name "Window" by A.P. Rowe, the superintendent of the Telecommunications Research Establishment TRE.

The scheme was sanctioned by the chiefs of staff on 27 April 1942. It was the scattering of clouds of this foil by British bombers that confused the German gun-laying radar and provided a measure of protection against fak for the night raids of Bomber Command. Perhaps the greatest success of the work of Joan Curran and her team was its use where foil was dropped with great precision by the Lancasters of 617 Squadron, to synthesise a phantom invasion force of ships in the straits of Dover on the night of 5-6 June 1944. This told Von Rundstedt and his commanders unsure of whether the hunk of the Allied as-

sault would fall on Normandy or in the Pas de Calais.

Early in 1944 Sam Curran was sent to the United States to work on the highly secret Manhattan Project. His wife helped him in his work on the invention of the scintillation counter – a device for measuring radioactivity that is still in use in many scientific laboratories. However, during this period at Berkeley Radiation Laboratory, Joan gave birth to their first child, Sheena, who was to be severely mentally handicapped. When they returned to Glasgow after hostilities Joan and Sam Curran with a few friends set up the Scottish Society for the Parents of Mentally Handicapped Children, called Enable. It now has over 100 branches and more than 6,000 members. As a member of the Greater Glasgow Health Board, Joan championed the needs of the disabled and as a Scottish constituency MP I know how much she did on the Council for Access for the Disabled, especially helping the disabled to get to university.

Among her other interests was the relationship between Strathclyde University (as, under the guidance of Sam Curran, the Royal College of Science and Technology

became) and the Technical University of Lodz in Poland. The Polish 1st Armoured Division had been based in Scotland during the war and many stayed to be integrated into Scottish society. Joan Curran established funds to help them and we still have the Lady Curran Endowment Fund to help overseas students, particularly from Poland.

In 1967 Strathclyde awarded Joan Curran a degree of Doctor of Laws which touched her greatly. Last year, permanently ill, she unveiled a plaque in the Barony Hall in Sam Curran's honour and she was told that the walled garden at Ross Priory, the University of Strathclyde staff club on Loch Lomondside, was to be named the Joan Curran Summer House. In later life, this distinguished scientist had played a wonderful role in welcoming the families of new staff to Strathclyde University. She played a major part in the outstanding success of Strathclyde.

TAM DALYELL

Joan Strothers, physicist and charity founder: born Swansea 26 February 1916; married 1940 Sam Curran (d 1970, died 1998; three sons, one daughter); died Glasgow 10 February 1999.

Buddy Knox



Michael Ochs Archives / Redferns

ALL PERFORMERS are influenced by those around them, and Buddy Holly was inspired by the success of his namesake and fellow Texan, Buddy Knox. Knox's career was eclipsed by Holly's, but he was a highly rated rockabilly performer. Knox's parents ran a farm in Happy, Texas, and named their son, who was born in 1935, after a family friend, Buddy Wilson. "We didn't even have electricity or a radio," Knox told me in 1992. "I played guitar and harmonica to entertain myself. I wrote 'Hula Love' in 1947 and 'Party Doll' in 1948, which was eight years before 'Rock 'n' Roll' came in."

Knox won an athletics scholarship to the West Texas State College, where he met Jimmy Bowen and Don Lanier and together they formed a group, the Serenaders. Knox recalled, "I saw Elvis Presley in Amarillo, Texas, in June 1955 and he was playing the same stuff we were playing. He told me, 'Man, if you've got a band and some good songs, get into a recording studio cause something is fixin' to happen.'"

Another up-and-coming performer, Roy Orbison, told Knox about Norman Petty's studio in Clovis, New Mexico. "Norman was an electrician who had built his own studio," said Knox. "His echo chamber was in the top of his dad's garage with a speaker at one end and a microphone at the other. Every time a truck passed by, it sounded like it was in the studio with us."

Despite the frugal conditions, Petty got an exciting rockabilly sound. He added the drummer, Dave Aldred, and first time out, in April 1956, the Serenaders recorded the cheerful "Party Doll" and the teen ballad, "I'm Stickin' With You", with Jimmy Bowen as lead vocal.

The session was sponsored by Chester Oliver, a Texas oil-man, who pressed 1,500 copies for local

stores. One of the band's DJ friends was sacked for playing the record six times in one day, but it became a territorial hit.

Opportunity knocked when Morris Levy, the owner of Roulette Records in New York, wanted to issue the single nationally. Both songs had hit potential so he released them separately – Buddy Knox and the Rhythm Orchids, so called because of their coloured stage suits, with "Party Doll", and Jimmy Bowen and the Rhythm Orchids with "I'm Stickin' With You", which Knox had co-written. One DJ, Dick Clark, refused to play "Party Doll" as he objected to the line, "I'll make love to you." Alan Freed had

no such reservations and the single topped the US charts in March 1957, with "I'm Stickin' With You" also making the Top Twenty. "I was very green," said Knox. "One minute I was on a farm in Happy, Texas and the next on 'The Ed Sullivan Show'. I'd never seen buildings over three stories before."

But then Knox was drafted. "The week 'Party Doll' hit No 1, the army

decided that they needed me real bad and it meant that we couldn't come to England where 'Party Doll' was a hit," he said. "We had the London Palladium and European dates lined up. The contracts went into the garbage can and I got drunk for the first time in my life. It broke the band up."

Knox made several excellent records for Roulette including "Somebody Touched Me", "I Think I'm Gonna Kill Myself" and "The Girl with the Golden Hair". When royalties were not forthcoming, Knox, who had a degree in accountancy, knew something was wrong. "Morris Levy was a gangster and he died before he went to prison," said Knox. "Both Bobby Darin and Connie Francis warned me about him and I should have listened. As a result, Roulette ended up with all

the recordings, all the publishing, all the songwriting royalties and we got nothing."

I asked Knox if he dared to ask for his money. "Yes, and I was told no very forceful terms. I hired a lawyer to get some money for us, he got \$1,000 but he said, 'Don't ever call me again, I've got a wife and kids and I don't want to be involved. I had to make my money on the road and I was hitting the road real hard.'

When Knox moved to Liberty Records, his vocals became more mannered and he recorded the feeble novelty songs "Chi Hua Hua" and "Ling Ting Tong". His best Liberty recording were "Lovey Dovey" (1961) and "She's Goo" (1962), which was a minor UK hit. Jimmy Bowen moved into record production and worked with Knox for Frank Sinatra's Reprise label in 1964. Four years later, Knox was invited to join United Artists by Buddy Holly's original partner, Bob Montgomery, and they made "God Knows I Love You" and "Gypsy Man", which became a US country success.

In 1977 Knox found a new audience at a rockabilly show at the Rainbow Theatre in Finsbury Park, which was recorded by EMI. In 1988 there was a concert for his 60th birthday with Tommy Sands and the Coasters, which was also recorded.

In January this year, Knox, who was about to be married for the fourth time, fell and broke his hip. The doctors discovered a terminal cancer and gave him three months to live. He planned to perform one last show in Seattle, but he died before it could take place.

SPENCER LEIGH

Buddy Wayne Knox, singer and songwriter: born Happy, Texas 20 July 1933; three times married; died Port Orchard, Washington 14 February 1999.

Dr Emrys Wyn Jones

OUTSIDE A long and distinguished career as a heart specialist at hospitals in Liverpool and his prominent roles on committees responsible for the administration of the health service in his native Wales, Emrys Wyn Jones was also a writer and book collector who served on numerous public bodies involved in the cultural life of Wales.

Having taken first class honours in Medicine and Surgery at Liverpool University in 1928, at the age of 21, he became a Doctor of Medicine in 1930, a Member of the Royal College of Physicians in 1933 and a Fellow in 1949. During his training at the London teaching hospitals he carried off a number of prestigious prizes.

His association with the Liverpool Royal Infirmary began in 1928 but he did not join its full-time staff until 1938. From 1945 until his retirement in 1972 he was in charge of the Cardiology Department, but also played a leading role in the hospital's administration and, from 1953, taught medicine at Liverpool University, later as Director of Cardiac Studies. He ended his career as Senior Physician at the Liverpool Royal Infirmary and the Regional Cardiac Centre.

In Wales, he served on numerous committees, including those of the Welsh Hospitals Board (1952-74), and as consultant to the North Wales Hospitals, which included those at Bangor, Rhyd and Wrexham (1954-59). He became perhaps the best-known representative of the medical profession in the region. The administrative systems which he was instrumental in setting up in north Wales provided a firm basis for the implementation of the provisions ushered in by the National Health Service in 1948. He was also a keen advocate of the wider use of Welsh in medical circles and, although never active on behalf of any political party, took a stern view of those who denied the claims of Welsh nationality which, in his view, was inexorably bound up with the language.

Emrys Wyn Jones was born at Wauwawau in Caernarvonshire in 1907, the son of a Calvinistic Methodist minister, and received his secondary education at the County School in Caernarvon. His older brother who had begun to win a reputation as a brilliant pathologist, died at the age of 23, after which it was taken for granted that he would follow the same career. From his parents he inherited the rich Welsh culture of the Lleyn peninsula, in which he found great relief from the rigours of his professional life and to which he often returned in his writings; his last home was at Rhin, near Aberdaron, almost at the extreme tip of the peninsula.

The *Violin d'Ingres* which gave him greatest pleasure was the writing of local history, in both Welsh and English, and a collection of her essays, *Cyfleoedd Cof* ("The Enchantment of Memory", 1970). His second wife, Megan, was the widow of Thomas Jones Pierce, formerly Professor of Welsh History at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth; they married in 1973. She brought to their marriage a vivacity and keen interest in all things Welsh which chimed nicely with his own.

Although a man of temperate judgement and a somewhat reserved personality, who preferred scholarly pursuits to the public arena in which he spent his professional life, Wyn Jones gave his services to the National Eisteddfod and the Gorsedd of Bards which is closely associated with it, the National Library, the National Museum, the University of Wales, the Welsh National School of Medicine, the Welsh League of Youth, the Honourable Society of Cymrodon, and the Denbighshire Historical Society; he was High Sheriff of his native county in 1947.

During the post-war period he was particularly concerned to see the end of National Service, offering practical advice to those expecting to appear before tribunals because they had refused conscription on grounds of conscience.

He also maintained his links with the Welsh life of Liverpool, as President of both the University's Welsh Society and its Medical Students' Society. For his services to Welsh culture he was awarded the honorary degree of LLB by the University of Wales.

A fascinating insight into his views on modern surgery, especially heart transplants and his response to the ethical problems of saving life and the inevitability of death, was given in Welsh during a television interview broadcast in 1971 and published in the symposium *Dan Synta*. While not disapproving of the experimental work of Dr Christian Barnard, he deplored the publicity surrounding heart transplants and spoke movingly of the relationship between doctor and patient when death is known to be imminent. It was his Quaker faith, with its emphasis on pacifism, the value of silence in the face of the great mysteries, and George Fox's dictum that there is a part of God in all men and women, which sustained him at such moments and, indeed, throughout the greater part of his life.

MEIC STEPHENS

Emrys Wyn Jones, surgeon and writer: born Wauwawau, Caernarvonshire 23 May 1907; Head of the Cardiology Department, Liverpool Royal Infirmary 1945-72; married 1936 Enid Llywelyn-Williams (died 1967; one son, one daughter), 1973 Megan Jones Pierce (one stepson, one stepdaughter); died Bangor, Gwynedd 14 January 1999.

Dr Anne Spoerry

FIAMMETTA ROCCO's obituary of Anne Spoerry [10 February] was excellent, writes Dr Hugh de Gauvain, but I would point out that it is hardly possible to hold clinics "under the wing" of a Cherokee

235 or Anne's later Piper low-wing monoplanes, of which the wings are some two-three feet above the ground. What "Mama Dakari" held her clinics under was, when one was available, a thorn tree.

Eilean Pearcey

EILEAN PEARCEY specialised in action drawings of dancers. Her work can be found in the Australian Museum of the Performing Arts, at Edith Cowan University in Western Australia and in private collections, but the bulk of her output, several thousand drawings and paintings, were at her suggestion gifted to Surrey University. She admired greatly what they had done for dance and they returned the compliment by awarding her an honorary MA.

Born in Melbourne in 1901, she came from a family of soldiers and lawyers. Like many women of her generation she seemed rather more English than Australian. She was educated at the best schools and took her BA at Melbourne University before going on to study painting at what has now become the Victorian College of the Arts. She had a gift for portraiture, rather less for landscape, and it was only when she first saw Anna Pavlova and her company on tour in Australia in 1922 that she found her true subject matter.

For the next 65 years she would concentrate on trying to capture the movement of dance in impressionistic sketches none the less based on close observation. Just as her great friend Sheila Hawkins, the children's book illustrator, looked at animals, so Pearcey studied the human body and its musculature. She became a familiar figure in London, where she moved in 1931, to



Pearcey: a hopeless businesswoman - Ida Kar

be seen most evenings at the theatre, at the side of the stalls or in the wings, scribbling in the near dark. Many of these quick sketches are among her best work, for she had a tendency to rework and rework to the point where the freshness of the first impression faded.

She was at her best with modern dance. She adored Martha Graham and was one of the first people to support Robin Howard and Robert Cohan when they sought to establish a Graham School in London. She did many drawings of the London Contemporary Dance company, and its first generation of dancers. Particularly successful was a series of William Louther in Peter Maxwell Davies' *Vesuvii Icons*. A number of these were bought by the composer. She became a close friend, too, of Marcel Marceau, whose work she much admired and her many drawings of him and his famous character Bip have often been reproduced.

But her greatest enthusiasm was for Indian dance, introduced to it by Uday Shankar and benefiting from the important work of the Asian Music Circle run by Ayanam Angadi. Pearcey saw all the dancers and musicians who came through London and many, like Ritha Devi and Ram Gopal, became close friends. She visited India, gave a talk on *Woman's Hour* on the temples of Bhuwaneshwar, and came under the influence of the yoga teacher BKS Iyengar.

Her drawings were used to illustrate his handbook on yoga and from being an enthusiastic pupil, Pearcey, in late middle age, became an outstanding teacher. In fact she continued teaching long after any normal retirement age, claiming that the ILLEA had lost her records. She was certainly well past 80 when she stopped teaching, though she still did her daily exercises, including the headstand which she was always ready to demonstrate.

Small and wiry, she kept very fit and until the last years of her life would cross London by bus or even on foot to hear a lecture at the Horniman or see a performance at the Place.

She was a hopeless businesswoman and her work was much less well known than it deserved. Despite a successful exhibition at Victor Musgrave's Gallery One in the early Fifties, she subse-



Pearcey was at her best drawing modern dance

quently had difficulty in getting things together. She could never decide what she wanted to show and fell out with virtually everyone who tried to promote her or her work. Even when editors like Peter Williams of *Dance and Dancers* offered her opportunities, she missed deadlines and complained about the results when her drawings were used. She became reluctant to part with anything, even when she could have done with the money.

She lived on in her increasingly Miss Havisham-like studio until a couple of years ago when she could no longer look after even her very simple needs. She never seemed to eat much and her fridge was a real danger zone, full of little scraps of things that might have been there for months. She just could not be bothered, preferring to spend hours a day on the telephone or

writing to a wide range of friends both in this country and abroad. She kept in close touch with her niece Christine Fairhall in Perth, Western Australia, and much appreciated it when she came to London to help sort out the studio.

Her marriage to the distinguished structural engineer Ramsay Moon broke up and they were divorced shortly after the Second World War. But the central tragedy of her life was the death through meningitis of her only son, Felix, at the age of 13. He was a brilliant child, and his loss was something she felt every day of her life.

JOHN DRUMMOND

Eilean Blake Pearcey, artist: born Melbourne, Victoria 28 May 1901; married Ramsay Moon (one son deceased; marriage dissolved); died London 1 February 1999.

Mike Elliott

MIKE ELLIOTT was a committed artist and inspirational teacher at Camberwell School of Arts and Crafts for over 40 years. It seems appropriate, if death can ever be seen thus, that he suffered a heart attack while on his way to teach there; he never regained consciousness and died in University College Hospital opposite the Slade School of Fine Art which he had attended as a student.

Elliott was part of that generation which benefited from post-war funding of art and artists. For the first time, those from a working-class background were able to spend their entire lives concerned with art. Born in Clapham, south London, in 1933, and brought up in Tooting, where his family had moved before the Second World War, he gained entry to a grammar school.

At 16, he decided he wanted to paint and persuaded his parents by talking in terms of commercial art. With the financial assistance of the old London County Council, he attended Camberwell School of Art and sat for the intermediate and National Diploma of

Design exams successfully. When he was subsequently accepted as an undergraduate at the Slade, it was once again the LCC that made it possible. He spent three years there, including a post-graduate year, a very productive time for him. The life of the art-school student suited him perfectly; he even played in the Slade School Jazz Band.

After graduating in 1957, he married a fellow student, Robina Evans, and with a French government grant the pair went to live and work in Paris. At this stage his work became entirely abstract and his interest was in the more rational approach of the Constructivists. He enjoyed his time in Paris but never felt at ease there. He exhibited with various galleries, including Gimpel Fils in London.

On his return to England, a chance meeting with the painter and teacher Joe Dixon led to the part-time teaching at Camberwell that started Elliott's 40-year association with the school. Whatever discipline he taught - painting or drawing or line cut or woodblock - it was always art that was being discussed; he

did not believe in merely developing craft skills.

In the early Sixties he and I set up a studio and silkscreen workshop in Kennington and around this a group of Constructivists was formed called Kos. There were exhibitions and contacts with other groups abroad. Most important was the Group Mardil, the revolutionary group in Buenos Aires. In the Seventies and Eighties he designed and painted a number of murals in south London, often working with students on these as a project.

Mike Elliott's work evolved from Constructivism in order to accommodate a growing interest in German expressionism. It is this that really marks him out as a distinctive artist. He took the classical and rational approach of Constructivism and applied it to what was dominantly a Romantic art form.

A memorial exhibition of his work has been proposed for the Centenary Gallery at Camberwell School of Art in September.

BRIAN ELLIOTT

Michael James Elliott, artist and teacher: born London 19 January 1933; Lecturer, Camberwell School of Art 1959-99; married 1957 Robina Evans (deceased; two sons, one daughter); died London 29 January 1999.



Elliott: evolved Constructivist

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS

MILLS: On 11 February 1999, to Deborah (née Wilson) and William, a daughter, Jennifer Grace Rose, a sister for Toby.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh attended a reception given by the American Chamber of Commerce in London. The Duke of Edinburgh visits Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, and the Tytherington Trust, visits Cester's View, East Tytherington, Hampshire, and Steven's Drive, Houghton, Cambridgeshire. The Queen and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, officially opens the New-natal Unit at Florence Nightingale House, Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester, and, as Patron, the Butler Trust, visits the Priory, Winchester.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

BIRTHDAYS

The Duke of York, 39; Maj-Gen Peter Baldwin, consultant, Television Corporation, 72; Sir John Collyer, former chairman, USM Texon, 72; The Rev Gwynne Henton Davies, Principal Emeritus, Regent's Park College, Oxford, 53; Sir Nicholas Fenn, former High Commissioner to India, 63; Lord Forbes, premier Lord of Scotland, 81; Mr John Freeman, international relations consultant and former diplomat, 84; Lord Henniker, former ambassador, 83; Mr Andrew Jameson, swimmer, 34; Dr Robyn Jeffrey, chairman and chief executive, Scottish Nuclear, 60; Miss Hana Mandlikova, tennis champion, 37; Professor Bernard Meadows, sculptor, 84; Dr Alan J. Munro, Master, Christ's College, Cambridge, 60; Sir John N. Nicholson, former chairman, Ocean Steam Ship Co, 88; Sir Daniel Pettit, former chairman, National Freight Corporation, 84; Mrs Erin Pizzey, founder of

homes for battered women, and writer, 60; Mr Peter Price, former MEP, 57; Mr Smokey Robinson, singer, 59; Mr Colin Sharman, senior partner, EPMG, 58; Mr Brian Tesler, former deputy chairman, LWT (Holdings), 70; Dr Jenny Tonge MP, 58.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Nicolaus Copernicus (Mikołaj Kopernik), astronomer, 1473; David Garrick, actor, 1717; Mervi Obero (Estelle) Marie O'Brien Thompson, actress, 1911; Stan Kenton (Stanley Newcomb), jazz band-leader, 1912; Deaths: Charles Blondin (Jean-François Gravelot), tightrope walker, 1897; Ernst Mach, physicist, 1916; André-Paul-Guillaume Gide, novelist, 1951. On this day, the photograph was patented by Thomas Alva Edison, 1878; The Sovits Union agreed to withdraw its forces from Cuba, 1963; after failing to come to an agreement over the fishing dis-

pute, Iceland broke off diplomatic relations with Britain, 1976. Today is the Feast Day of St Barbara, St Beatus of Liebana, St Boniface of Lauzanne, St Conrad of Piacenza and St Mesrop.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Nina Levick, "February Fables (iii): Mignard, The Marquise de Seignelay and Two of her Children", 1pm. Tate Gallery: Michael Peppiatt, "Francis Bacon: a brilliant fool like me", 1pm. British Museum: Rowena Loverance, "The Reformation in Art", 11.30am.

DINNERS

British Academy of Forensic Sciences The Friends' Dinner of the British Academy of Forensic Sciences was held yesterday evening at the Law Society, London WC2. Lord Mackay of Clashfern presided. Mr Anthony Glass QC and Mr

Jeremy Roberts QC were the main speakers.

European-Atlantic Group Lord Judd of Portsea presided at a dinner of the European-Atlantic Group held yesterday evening at St James's Court Hotel, London SW1. Mr Christopher Cox, Chairman of the House Policy Committee, United States Congress, was the guest speaker. His subject was "US Policy and International Security".

SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 5.08pm. United Synagogues: 0151-343 3883; Federation of Synagogues: 0151-202 2243; Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-580 1663; Reform Synagogues of Great Britain: 0151-349 4731; Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-281 2573; New London Synagogue (Mazorah): 0171-373 1026.

GAZETTE

CURIOS. A word's diversity. *Pluck* is not only the entrails of an animal ground into sausages, but also an act of picking andfeat of courage. One is restless until it's settled. Johnson posits a Saxon origin, *phlegm* and *notes*. "It is very generally and licentiously used, particularly by Shakespeare." *Courage* - *pluck* up

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER
HAWTREE

pluck, n. 1:

heart - is looked, but as for the heart, liver and other lights of an animal", he meets Erse, *plughk* - "I know not whether derived

from the English, rather than the English from the Erse."

The OED takes a more scientific approach, and the word fits several fascinating pages, which add Seventies black slang for wine, and the age-old *pluck*; a rose - women's euphemism for urination when the privy was in the garden.

OBITUARIES/7

LINGUISTIC NOTES

Ins and outs of the meaning of 'is'

contact do we say that "sex" has occurred?" How many times, how closely spaced, before it's "sexual relations" or a "sexual relationship".

When consenting adults

come together, does one of them "cause" contact, or are the actions of the entities with

free will never truly caused?

The argument doesn't im-

press anyone but a professor of semantics, and that is be-

cause of another key feature

of language: people work

around its limitations by tac-

itily agreeing on how to use it.

Conversation requires co-

operation. A speaker im-

pliably guarantees that the

information he is conveying

is relevant that the listener

can easily connect it to his

prior knowledge and expec-

tations. That allows listeners

to hear between the lines in

order to pin down vague

words, winnow out the un-

intended readings of an ambig-

uous sentence, piece together

fractured utterances, glide

over slips of the tongue, and

fill in the countless unsaid

logical steps in a complete train

of thought. When the shampo bottle says "Lather, rinse,

repeat", we don't spend the

rest of our lives in the shower,

we infer that it means

"repeat once". When Marsha

says "I'm leaving" and John

says "Who is he?", we in-

stantly deduce which "he"

John is referring to.

The expression "to be on

speaking terms" reminds us

that, without co-operation,

language is impossible.

reason we cannot converse with our computers is not that the engineers cannot program in the grammar and vocabulary of the English language but that they can not program in the common sense of a human speaker. In the old *Get Smart* television series, Maxwell Smart asks the robot Hymie to "give me a hand", and Hymie proceeds to unscrew his hand and hold it out.

The sketchiness of language gives the listener considerable leeway in pinning an interpretation to an utterance. That is fine when the interlocutors are co-operative but not when they are adversaries and the interpretation can send someone to jail. The law requires language to be done something for which it is badly designed: to leave nothing to the imagination. Lawmakers and lawyers do their best to co-opt language for this unnatural job. But at some point we have to fall back on the principle of co-operation and judge the truthfulness of a statement by what a cooperative speaker would expect his listeners to infer.

Clinton astutely said, "My goal in this deposition was to be truthful, but not particularly helpful." Unfortunately, it is in the very nature of human language that this goal is impossible.

Steven Pinker is the author of *How the Mind Works* (Penguin, £9.99)

FRIDAY LAW REPORT

19 FEBRUARY 1999

Homeless? But you're eating Sugar Puffs

DURING THE Eighties, many people believed the infuriating myth that everyone in the South-east was a yuppie. In which case who, I wondered, cleaned the drains in the south? If they were blocked, did we say: "Oh what a pong, we will have to call a northerner?"

So what must it be like to live in Islington? Everyone knows Islington exists only for yuppies. If there's a working class in Islington, it's assumed to be for ironic purposes. Maybe, among the brasseries and art dealers, there's a nostalgic café with a greasy-spoon theme, where you can order bacon, egg, free-range ketchup, two slices of deep-fried cappuccino and a large organic mug of piping-hot balsamic vinegar with five sugars.

Certainly there shouldn't be a need for homeless centres. Unless the council has set one up for people with only one house, so they've got somewhere to go while the neighbours are all off on holiday in Tuscany.

But beyond the façade lies the 10th-poorest borough in Britain, with less green space than any other borough in London, and 60 per cent of its residents in public

housing. Many of Islington's 10,000 registered homeless live in centres, awaiting acceptance on to the council housing list. The one I visited had 60 rooms on two floors, with a gloomy concrete corridor that made each footstep echo. So as you walked along it, you expected to hear the clanging of a large bunch of keys, the slamming of a metal door and the words "Norman Stanley Fletcher... you are a habitual criminal who accepts arrest as an occupational hazard".

Abdul, from Somalia, invited me into his room, but insisted I waited until he'd tidied it first. This didn't take long, as the only objects in it were a bed, a fridge, a Biro and a box of Sugar Puffs.

A teenager, he's an asylum-seeker, a phrase that is so often preceded by the word "bogus" that many people must believe that to be the official term, like "New Labour". He didn't speak much English, so handed me a sheet of paper on which his story was written. His father was a vegetable trader in Mogadishu when a clan took over his area and demanded a weekly payment. One day his father couldn't pay, so they shot him

and Abdul's cousin died. From then on the remaining family members were prisoners in their own house, until Abdul escaped in a lorry to a refugee camp in Nairobi, then borrowed the money to come to Britain and hoped for refuge.

Yet the attitude of much of Britain to Abdul's plight seems to be, "Yeah, but if he's that hard done by, how come he's able to afford Sugar Puffs?"

A new bill is being introduced to make it harder to claim asylum. Refugees will receive food vouchers instead of benefits.

Also, they'll be expected to initiate their claim through official departments in their own countries. Which is fine, as long as the murderers you're fleeing from are reasonable about processing bureaucracy. Then you can ask them, "Excuse me, I'd like to move to Britain because yesterday you shot my family. Could you sign a form to confirm this please, otherwise they'll be ever such a backlog at the branch office in Islington."

Abdul kept apologising for not speaking much English, and I wondered how many times he must have meandered around

MARK STEEL



ON LOCATION

unfathomable council offices, searching for the right counter to queue at all day - while someone bellowed, "You need the fourth floor, dear", as if he were 90 years old, shaking his head at the way he couldn't understand such a simple instruction. "All I talk," he said slowly, "is Somali, Swahili and Arabic."

The modern refugee has two hurdles to cross to get to safety.

One resident, who'd recently left the centre, came to Britain after fleeing a government death squad in a canoe-chase down the Zambezi. What must it be like to

survive that, and then be faced with the even more complicated

task of not getting deported straight back there?

If Hollywood were to make a modern version of a classic escape story, it would hardly be like *The Great Escape* or *Cry Freedom*. The hero would be across the border in the first 10 minutes, and the rest of the film would show him waiting all day for a food voucher, before being told he was at the wrong building and needed social services, but that the office was shut until Friday.

Other residents include teenage single mums, and women who have fled violent partners. Which may explain how there remains a certain camaraderie. Single mums, the homeless and refugees all now have something in common, each taking it in turns to be blamed by New Labour for trying to wreck the country. Maybe I'll go back next week and find that Ken Livingstone has moved in.

But the toughest side of living

here must be that there's nowhere to escape the reality that you're poor. Most of us, even at our most skint, have a cosy hideaway. Even on the 18th floor of a tower block, there will be a warm corner with a lamp and a record-player.

When I lived in a squat, the trick was to make one room habitable, so that you could forget that the rest of the house had no floorboards and there was a half-assembled motorbike in the kitchen. But in the homeless unit, the poverty follows you everywhere - to sightings of cockroaches, and sinks in which brown water gurgles. And to the dank cupboard atmosphere that doesn't only smell but also feels permeated with damp and mould, stale cigarettes and distant chip fat, with everything turning slowly yellow.

Despite this, a buoyant one-year-old baby was bounding along the corridor, giggling into any room that was open. His mother spoke, among other languages, French. So I tried to converse, using my stammering, uncertain and south London version of the language.

She

was from Rwanda, she

said. I asked her how she'd got out, but she kept replying "by plane". What, I wonder, is French for "Yes, but how did you escape those people who were on the news who were slaughtering

Twenty years ago Peking launched its brutal one child family policy. Result: 65 million pampered only children. By Teresa Poole



China's cities are awash with doted-upon only children - and no one seems sure whether this is good or bad AP

China's spoilt Little Emperors

I have heard that when they first go to university, some only children can't do anything, even wash their own clothes," said 20-year-old Li Yuening, an undergraduate at Tianjin city's Nankai University. "But if their parents have been educated, they won't spoil their child so much."

Her classmate, Liu Lu, 19, agreed: "In most one-child families, the parents live through the Cultural Revolution. They lost so much during that period that they want to regain it all through their child. So they sometimes spend too much money, and maybe it makes the child a little selfish."

These two young women, both only children, are the product of one of the most brutal exercises in social engineering ever seen. Two decades ago, in 1979, the Chinese Communist Party launched its controversial "one-child-family" policy. In total, China now has 65 million only children, almost all of whom live in urban areas, where the "one child policy" has meant just that.

The first only children born under this regime - such as Ms Li and Ms Liu - have now reached adulthood. Meanwhile, the younger generation growing up in China is characterised as pampered and spoilt "Little Emperors".

In rural areas, home to 70 per cent of Chinese, the policy since the mid-Eighties has increasingly allowed a second child, particularly if the first was a girl. But the traditional desire for sons and large families remains stubborn.

As the old saying puts it: "A married daughter is like splashed water" - ie, a waste (female infanticide always was a problem in imperial China). Family planning rules have exacerbated this age-old preference for male offspring, assisted by ultrasound technology and selective abortion. The result is an unusually high proportion of baby boys, building a store of social pressures for the future.

There is much debate inside China on all these questions. It is also difficult to separate the impact of mandatory family planning from the sweep of economic and social reforms during the same 20-year period. For instance, almost any child growing up now, with or without siblings, is massively spoilt compared to youngsters before 1979.

The Chinese government claims that the population is 300 million lower than it would have been without the one-child policy, although part of that trend would have occurred anyway with economic development. The steep decline in the crude birth rate in fact took place before the policy

was introduced, falling from 33.4 per 1,000 in 1970, to 18.25 in 1978, and 16.57 in 1997. If you look at the average number of children a woman bears, this fell from 5.8 in 1970, to about 1.9 nowadays (with the figure for urban residents below 1.3).

That still leaves more than 20 million babies born each year in China, and China's population, now 1.3 billion, is forecast to peak around 2050 at 1.6 billion. By then the second major impact will be evident: a quarter of China's population will be over 60 years old - hence the urgency of developing the country's nascent pensions and social insurance system.

By that time, the imbalance in the rural sex ratio may also have caused problems, as tens of millions of Chinese farmers fail to find wives. When Nature is left to herself, 106 boys are born for every 100 girl babies.

According to Chinese figures, the sex ratio for first-born babies is basically normal, but rises alarmingly with each subsequent child: 121:100 for second-borns, 124 for third-borns, and 131 for fourth babies, according to the 1990 census.

Parents lost so much during the Cultural Revolution they want to regain it all through their child

Plenty of other, bigger surveys point to a more complicated picture. Materially-speaking, spending on children is certainly huge, accounting for up to one-third of total family income in the big cities.

A study of middle-school students in Hubei province found that at kindergarten and primary school, only children were mentally and physically superior to those with siblings, but that their behaviour was worse. However, by middle school, those differences in character had disappeared. On psychological ratings, against expectations, loneliness was more of a problem among those with siblings.

Part of the reason may be that Chinese urban children often attend full-time kindergarten from as young as three years old. Older urban children are also routinely sent to summer camps or quasi-military training. Luo Xubin, at the Young Pioneer Centre's Department of Social Activity, said: "Last summer, we organised 300 or 400 children from Peking to go to a military base in Hebei province. That was a kind of hardship camp. At the base, the children learned to take care of their daily life, the dormitory had military training, held bonfire parties, and fished in the streams. It lasted five days. Getting out of the family, the children could use their own initiative."

The more worrying social problem probably comes from the huge pressure which parents these days put on their only children. Ms Fu quoted a survey in counties and towns in Jiangxi province which found that one-third of five-year-olds were already learning musical instruments, something which Chinese parents believe will increase their child's intelligence. In Peking at the China Children's Centre, which is run by the Women's Federation, expensive piano lessons are on offer. "We have several hundred students learning the piano," said one staff member. "If the parents keep coming with the child, then the child continues to learn. However, more than half drop out after one or two years."

A little-known fact is that, under China's family planning rules, these only children, if they marry another only child, will be permitted to have two children.

Cong Jun, a senior official at the State Family Planning Commission, whose only child is now 21, said: "We find that when our people are better educated, they tend not to have children at all. It's a change of attitude to marriage and childbearing. The young people in the cities now, a lot of them do not want to have any children. "But I can tell you, I really want to have two grandchildren!"

CLASSIFIED

Legal Notices



THE RAILWAYS ACT 1993

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Geoffrey Osborne Ltd (the Applicant)

Company Registration Number: 873093

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West Sussex PO19 2LL

Directors of the Applicant:

Geoffrey Clement Howard Osborne
Anthony John Kelley
Brian Kenneth Everard
John Frank Oliver
Graham Daines
Franklyn David Burden
Stephen Liddle

Nicholas Guy Anthony Yandal
Pamela Agnew Osborne
Brian John Watkins

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writing to:

Office of the Rail Regulator
100 Newgate Street
London EC1A 7AA
Telephone: 0171 234 2222
Telex: 888 234 2222
Fax: 0171 234 2223

Chris Ross
The Rail Regulator

ATTENTION: CATHAL DUFFY JUNIOR

Application will be made to the High Court, Dublin, Ireland on the 13th of March, 1999, for an Order revoking your name as acting Director of Enterprises in Ireland. Should you wish to make arrangements to appear in court you should attend the High Court at 11.15 am on that day or you should contact Patrick M. Keane & Co. Solicitors, Hardman House, Exchequer Square, Dublin, Ireland, prior to the above-mentioned date. Ref FL

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For the later babies, they know they have to pay a fine," said Xie Zhenming, at the China Population Information & Research Centre, "so they don't want to leave things to chance." (This is not true in ethnic minority areas, such as Nankai year, about half are only children.) "Some people say the only child sometimes does not know how to care about other people's feelings. All of us know how to care about others, to be tolerant, to be loving." Zhao Xiaoyu, 20, added:

"Only children long for communication with others, because when they are young, they feel alone." Even the shock of the six-person dormitories, after a childhood with the luxury of their own bedrooms was bearable, they said. "We have no choice, so we must get used to it and find interest in it," said 19-year-old Nie Ting.

China's generation of urban only children do not seem to revel in their singular position. "I would have liked a brother or a sister, it would have been interesting," said Siqing Gaowa, 20, at Nankai. "I want to have a brother, because if he is older he can protect me, and if younger I will not feel lonely." And when I go to college, my younger brother would stay with my parents," said Ms Nie.

These young adults were raised before China's 1990s boom, so their parents had less

opportunity to lavish them with material goods. On the train back to Peking, I met four Chinese boys on a school trip, all only children aged between 11 and 13, from the north-east city of Jinzhou. Did they ever feel they were spoilt? "Yes," they chorused gleefully. "Whatever is good to eat, my mother gets for me," said 12-year-old Zhang Xi, who was at least two stone overweight. Here, perhaps, were some of China's famed "Little Emperors", whose parents had just spent about two weeks' average wages sending their precious ones on a four-day educational visit to Tianjin and Peking.

China's government is well aware of the potential social pitfalls of its family planning policy, but also points to some obvious advantages of being an only child. Fu Zongbi, a family education expert at the Women's Federation, said: "The family is better off and they can devote more resources to an only child. The only child has a wider range of knowledge and a higher level of intelligence. The parents have enough time and energy to spend on education for the kids." Since the early 1980s China has run parenting classes for adults, with emphasis in the cities on how not to spoil only children, but also on not overloading them with pressure to perform.

The more worrying social problem probably comes from the huge pressure which parents these days put on their only children. Ms Fu quoted a survey in counties and towns in Jiangxi province which found that one-third of five-year-olds were already learning musical instruments, something which Chinese parents believe will increase their child's intelligence. In Peking at the China Children's Centre, which is run by the Women's Federation, expensive piano lessons are on offer. "We have several hundred students learning the piano," said one staff member. "If the parents keep coming with the child, then the child continues to learn. However, more than half drop out after one or two years."

A little-known fact is that, under China's family planning rules, these only children, if they marry another only child, will be permitted to have two children.

Cong Jun, a senior official at the State Family Planning Commission, whose only child is now 21, said: "We find that when our people are better educated, they tend not to have children at all. It's a change of attitude to marriage and childbearing. The young people in the cities now, a lot of them do not want to have any children. "But I can tell you, I really want to have two grandchildren!"

Puffs

SCIENCE



Dr Arpad Pusztai: forced to retire as the victim of a conspiracy or author of flawed research?

PA

Pusztai: the verdict

GM food: safe or unsafe? First we must ask experts in this field how they rate the research work that led to this most recent controversy, says Steve Connor

The case of Arpad Pusztai – the scientist forced to retire over his public comments about genetically modified (GM) potatoes – has become a cause célèbre with the environmentalists. He claims to have shown that GM food can stunt the growth of laboratory rats, harm brain development and damage the immune system. If he is right, it represents a hammer-blow to the biotechnology industry, which is keen to exploit advances in genetics. If he is wrong, Dr Pusztai could be accused of whipping up public hysteria.

Last week a group of 20 scientists signed a memo in support of Dr Pusztai, stating that the Hungarian-born researcher stands fully vindicated. Dr Pusztai's data from experiments he conducted at the Rowett Research Institute in Aberdeen clearly show, the memo says, that when laboratory rats were fed GM potatoes, their internal organs failed to grow fully and their immune systems were suppressed. They concluded that Dr Pusztai's research report would be acceptable for publication in a peer-reviewed scientific journal.

It is this last claim that has been put to the test by *The Independent*. Dr Pusztai's report became publicly available this week, and we asked one of Britain's leading experts, Professor Tom Sanders of King's College London, to comment on whether it would pass muster with genuine scientific referees. Professor Sanders concludes (see below) that Pusztai's work fails to reach a standard acceptable for a peer-reviewed journal.

Science is only science if it has passed through review by experts before being published in a journal. The 20 "experts", mostly from abroad, who signed the memo say Pusztai's research is of high quality. This is not the view of other scientists who saw it.

The story began in 1995, when the Scottish Office funded a three-year project involving three centres: the Rowett, Durham University and the Scottish Crop Research Institute. The aim was

to identify ways of making crops pest-resistant, with minimum side-effects. Dr Pusztai's role, as an expert on toxic plant proteins called lectins, was to undertake a series of feeding experiments using GM potatoes and laboratory rats. His particular interest was a lectin called GNA, found in the bulbs of snowdrops, which acts as a natural pesticide. According to Dr Pusztai's report no other lectin-producing GM plants were used in the experiments, although he does say he performed some "analytical" work with GM potatoes expressing another, more toxic lectin, Con A, from the jackbean plant.

This is a key point because, according to an audit investigation into Dr Pusztai's work (ordered by the Rowett following his statements on TV's *World in Action*), he had become confused over whether he was talking about GM potatoes expressing GNA or ordinary potatoes.

Dr Pusztai failed to win over experts, including his own colleagues, who were close to the research

Reviewed journal, which we passed to Professor Sanders.

Dr Pusztai fed the rats a diet of raw, baked or boiled potatoes. Some of the potatoes, he says, were genetically modified with the GNA lectin and some had GNA added to unmodified potatoes. A diet that solely consists of potatoes is so nutritionally poor that he sometimes added a protein supplement, otherwise the experiment would breach Home Office regulations limiting the suffering of animals. Two types of feeding trial took place: one over a 10-day period, the other over 100 days. His report states there was only one 100-day experiment, where extensive protein supplements had to be used. He found the liver weights of the animals in this trial actually improved when they were fed GM potatoes, and put this down to the protein supplement. Dr Pusztai said the long-term trial was only preliminary.

parent line. This again indicated that digestion and absorption of nutrients of transgenic potato diets was retarded in comparison with ordinary potato diets," Dr Pusztai writes.

A test of the rats' immune systems during this experiment also indicated that the animals fed transgenic potatoes were almost always more suppressed. Dr Pusztai claims that when free GNA was added to a diet of unmodified potatoes, he did not see this suppression. In other words, there was something about the act of genetic modification itself that has led to the effect he has observed. Environmentalists jumped on this as evidence that all GM food is unsafe.

Dr Pusztai's conclusions were ambiguous: "Four feeding trials were carried out ... In all four experiments, feeding transgenic potatoes to rats induced major and in most instances highly significant changes in the weights of some or most of their vital organs ... The growth rate of rats fed potato diets was slightly but significantly less than that of rats fed a high-quality control diet, but the presence of GNA, whether added to potato-based diets or expressed in the transgenic [plant] had no significant effect on weight gain and weight change compared to parent potato lines."

It was one of the 10 day experiments code name D242 – where Dr Pusztai claims to have observed significant effects which indicate that GM food is dangerous. According to Dr Pusztai, rats in this experiment were fed GM potatoes, enhanced with the GNA snowdrop lectin, as well as ordinary potatoes and potatoes spiced with "free" GNA. Dr Pusztai claims the growth of rats was significantly reduced on a diet of boiled potatoes, and more so on one of raw potatoes, as expected owing to the low nutritional value of potatoes compared with a high protein diet.

However, in this instance the difference between the final body weight and empty body weight of rats (accounting for food in the gut lumen) which were fed raw, transgenic potato diets was significantly higher than that of rats given diets containing the raw

which had Con A added to them in concentrations 5,000 times greater than would occur naturally. The audit, conducted by four scientists, two from the Rowett and two from outside, concluded that the only time the rats in the Pusztai experiment showed any signs of stunted growth was when they were fed Con A in these high concentrations.

"Therefore, the audit committee is of the opinion that the existing data do not support any suggestion that the consumption of rats of transgenic potatoes expressing GNA has an effect on the growth, organ development or immune function," the audit report stated.

In answer to this criticism, Dr Pusztai compiled his own "alternative report" in which he details what he did and the results he obtained. It is this report, which his supporters claim to be of sufficient standard for publication in a peer-

"THIS DOCUMENT reports four feeding studies with transgenic potatoes. The document has not been carefully prepared and is not up to the standard required for publication in a good scientific journal. The tables are not clear, and the captions do not make it clear whether the results are expressed as mean with SEM or SD [two statistical ways of expressing the possible error in calculating an average].

The food intakes are not adequately described – this data is essential for interpretation of the data. The dietary design of the first three studies is fundamentally flawed, as the diets did not contain adequate amounts of protein and the intake of nutrients and anti-nutrients differed between the transgenic and control animals.

"An intake of 100g protein/kg diet is regarded as the minimum amount for growing rats, and results in some degree of

malnutrition, particularly when under stress such as pregnancy. Most commercial rat diets contain protein at 200g/kg diet to support normal growth. The first three studies use between 55.6 and 72.5g protein/kg. This level of protein was not adequate to sustain normal growth and development in the rats.

The transgenic potatoes contained 20 per cent less protein than the parent variety but it appears no attempt was made to ensure that the protein content of the diets was similar. Thus differences between the parent variety and the transgenic animals could be attributed to differences in protein intake.

"It is unclear why a diet of raw potatoes was used, given that they are renowned for containing high levels of natural toxins. The study generalises conclusions made from the use of raw potatoes to the use of cooked potatoes.

"It is well documented that protein malnutrition in rats leads to decreased growth rate, changes in gut morphology and hepatic atrophy features that were observed in these studies. The report gives the impression that these dietary aspects of the study were considered post hoc. Why were the potatoes

not analysed before the diets were formulated? And why was the lower protein content in the transgenic line not compensated for by additional protein?"

Professor Sanders casts doubt on the statistical analysis that led Dr Pusztai to conclude that the brains of rats fed GM potatoes were affected by their diet. "It is odd that differences in brain weight were reported, as brain weight is generally not influenced by diet in adult rats," he says. "The statistical analyses is muddled. The tables do not indicate the number of animals in each

How to get blood out of a bone...



The potential for transforming human cells sets Lewis Wolpert's pulse racing, in this, the first of his new columns

WOW! IT IS very rare that I have such a strong reaction to a scientific paper, a real surprise and a sense of astonishment. Most papers in the journals add to the body of knowledge and, while they can be very interesting, excitement is rare. The last time I had such a reaction was over 10 years ago, when I first saw pictures of the zebra-like stripes of gene expression in the early fruit fly embryo that had been shadowed by the formation of the fly's body segments.

There were also a few reports that things were even more remarkable, as muscle cells were observed in the brain and were quite common in a particular type of brain tumour. But muscle cells have a quite different origin from that of nerve cells. They come from a region of the embryo thought to be as different from that from which nerve cells come as a

blood cells have only a life of a few weeks. If the division of these stem cells is blocked, by for example, X-irradiation, blood cell formation ceases with very serious consequences. But it is possible to rescue the situation by injecting stem cells from another animal.

With a high risk experiment – that is, with the chance of success being very low – the researchers injected the brain stem cells into the mice that had been irradiated to see if the brain stem cells could populate the bone marrow and, in their new environment, be persuaded to make blood cells. The mice did very well and, five months later, they had unequivocal evidence – the mice blood cells had come from the neural stem cells that they had injected. They were sure because the cells they had injected carried a molecular marker that made them distinguishable from those of the mouse into whom they had been injected.

No one yet knows how the cells in the bone marrow instructed the neural stem cells to make blood cells. It is totally unexpected that signals exist which can transform one cell type into another – English into Sanskrit.

They therefore began to grow stem cells from the brains of mice. They did this by putting the cells in a dish with the right culture medium, where they multiplied. They then wondered if these cells could give rise to blood-forming cells that have an origin similar to that of muscle. Blood in all vertebrates comes from stem cells in, for example, the bone marrow. Stem cells there divide and give rise to all our red and white blood cells and are very active, as our red

Sanskrit sentence is from one in English. Yet some cell biologists began to suspect that brain stem cells might have a greater potentiality for development than anyone had thought possible.

A test of the rats' immune systems during this experiment also indicated that the animals fed transgenic potatoes were almost always more suppressed. Dr Pusztai claims that when free GNA was added to a diet of unmodified potatoes, he did not see this suppression. In other words, there was something about the act of genetic modification itself that has led to the effect he has observed. Environmentalists jumped on this as evidence that all GM food is unsafe.

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O branded new world

Signs is an exhibition which insists that everything we see is an invitation to consume. By Kate Mikhail

You enter the temple to advertising through a 50-metre long corridor, piped music caressing you on your journey. In the distance, a mural of the Virgin Mary looms up: the mother of all brand names, with surely the world's best-known lifestyle product to sell. The man behind Signs, an exhibition on show in east London's Brick Lane, seems to think that today's global brand names are giving the Virgin Mary a run for her money, and says he is fascinated by the idea of "branding as religion".

"Are you going to go to the local Nike temple or the local gospel church?" asks Shubhamkar Ray, art director of urban fashion-wear company CAT. It's a rhetorical question. For many young people today, he argues, there is no choice: "Everything is commodified [sic] and sold to people. Branding is their cultural landscape."

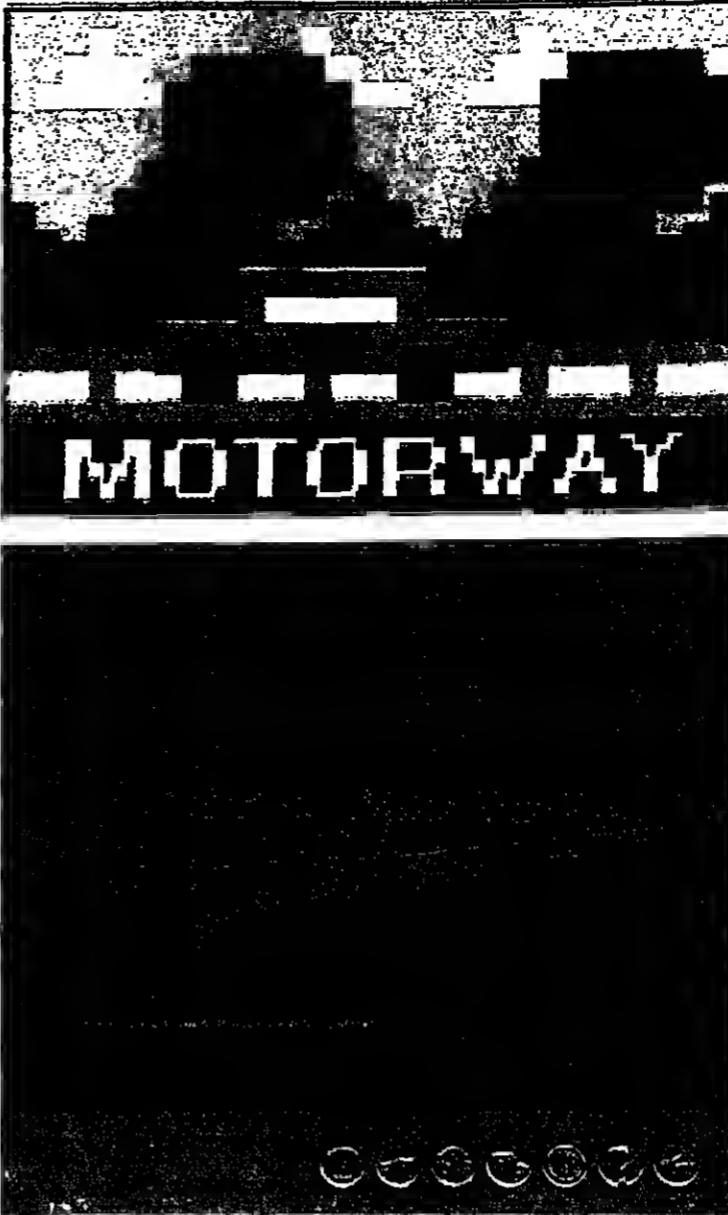
Signs is bankrolled by CAT, whose favourite slogan, "We Shape The Things We Build, Thereafter They Shape Us", appears on its new website.

"In a society/marketplace based on meaningless things," reads the exhibition's sell, "people long for something interesting or attractive, so Signs is a project resulting from a culture where image is visual wallpaper. The Signs project takes apart mass-produced culture and reassembles it as pop culture."

The exhibition uses photography, film, video, music, new media and design as "a means to create a statement that represents a contemporary anthropology of urban culture", according to the organisers. The main theme linking all the contributors to the show is that of the automation of our cities, using semiotics in an attempt to capture the reality of urban life.

Emerging from the tunnel, ease yourself into the exhibition with the *Bless the Artist* display: an anti-technology, deliberately retro exhibit which comprises four TV-sized screens and is perfect for anyone who's a Luddite at heart. Toy cars trundle along the comforting, play-school landscapes made up of simple block images and solid primary colours, alongside messages which read: "You are in the deep end", "When red light shows wait here", and "Turn up the volume".

"They're like little illuminated signs," explains the brain behind *Bless the Artist*, Anthony Burrill,



Clockwise from left: 'Crash1', 'Bless the Artist' and 'Fly1'. Signs takes mass-produced culture and reassembles it as pop culture

who was also responsible for the Tango-sponsored Christmas lights in London's Regent Street at the end of last year.

"The simple look is taken from Ceefax and is perfect for anyone who's a Luddite at heart. Toy cars trundle along the comforting, play-school landscapes made up of simple block images and solid primary colours, alongside messages which read: "You are in the deep end", "When red light shows wait here", and "Turn up the volume".

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throw yourself on to the desirable, designer beambags and experience the rantings of culture terrorists CRASH, whose most famous slogans are "Death to Chris Evans" and "David Badbie is the Rent Boy of the Bourgeoisie", and who here claim "Juvenile delinquents are the British avant-garde".

Short films on offer include work by the Visualisolationists, centred on the pop group Addict, and 16 mini-films (ranging from 30 seconds to five minutes) from graphic design company Fuel, throwing together juxtaposed ideas, from Patrick Moore explaining the Heisenberg theory of change to

Kate Moss discussing ownership and the image.

In the adjacent pod, designed by Antrom, an agency and art collective which specialises in multi-media, websites and CD-Roms, visitors can get interactive with a small, square box projected on to a video screen. With the help of a computer mouse, the square can be provoked into a frantic display of furious activity. Nick Roop, a member of Antrom, explains: "As you interact with this thing that looks like a harmless little box, you get realise it has a personality. It gets happier, or more pissed off, according to what happens. It is sim-

ple, but it is also a little bit dark." Contemporary photography is also well represented, from Dan Holdsworth's eerily beautiful urban landscapes of empty car-parks and deserted freeways, to the arresting Chopped Liver project, which frees gym fanatics mid-workout, exposing their vulnerabilities and decrying the absurdity of gym culture. Accompanying text in this month's issue of the magazine *Screenation* reveals the contempt held by photographers Adam Broomberg and Oliver Chanarin for their subjects: "Is it those self-same tossers who drive their Beemers the five-minute walk to the station

every day who spend at least an hour a day working out? More than likely."

Signs has gathered together an impressive collection of those at the leading edge of artistic and commercial creativity. And while direct plugs for CAT are kept to a minimum, this is still clearly a case of credibility by association: what do you do if you want to appear sire?

Gather together the young, trendy innovators of today and hang out with them...

Signs, at the Atlantis Gallery, 146 Brick Lane, London E1 (0171-887 4852), until 21 Feb

Wanted for brilliance, dead or alive

SIMON CALLOW in a new book about his passionate Platonic love affair with the agent and *monstre sacré*, Peggy Ramsay, reveals that the couple spent a lot of time gassing to each other on the phone during his periods offstage in his dressing room when he was in rep at the National. If he'd ever appeared in a production by Declan Donnellan, these telephone outpourings would have been drastically reduced. Even when they have been gorily bumped off, Donnellan loves to keep characters onstage, moving around in revealing relation to their survivors. He's a master at creating, through his casts, a constantly shifting dia-

THEATRE

LE CID
RIVERSIDE
LONDON

gram of the psychological forces operating at any one point.

This talent strikes with particular vividness now in his magnificently lucid and passionate modern-dress staging, with French-speaking actors, of Corneille's 1636 masterpiece *Le Cid*. Played on a bare wooden floor and against planked walls where the silhouettes literally heighten one's sense of the dramatic conflicts, this is the first staging I

have seen of this tricky play where I haven't felt tempted to snort with derision at the intricate rigidities of the Spanish honour code.

The potential tragedy is triggered by an insulting slap across the face administered by a military hero (the alarmingly virile Michel Baumann) to a more successful rival for the King's favour. It's characteristic that the shock of that smack is intensified here by having it coincide with a sudden outbreak of polite applause for a guitar concert just ending at Court. It's also typical that the resulting duel is staged with the two stripped-to-the-waist combatants airing sword thrusts at each other, long-dis-

tance, from diagonally opposite extremes of the set. Space and time are collapsed: so characters who, in other locations, are agonising about the moral and amatory consequences of such a fight, seem to be physically encircled by it.

This kind of psychic geometry brilliantly clarifies the appalling strain on William Nadyam's usefully sensitive Don Rodrigue, pushed into reluctant heroism by his helpless crippled father (Philippe Blancher) and landed in the cruelly invidious position of being the murderer of his fiancée's father. The production brings out the more than faintly sub-currents of the honour code in the stage world

mourning outfit, constantly keeping up the pressure on her to put his memory before all else. Likewise, an obsessed Infanta (Sandrine Attard) can strip the man of her dreams in fantasy and slip herself into his military tunic.

The embarrassment of the happy ending is transcended by showing (a) that it is also embarrassing to the characters and (b) that it isn't all that happy. One of the French reviews was headlined "Wonderful!" Let's go for the bilingual approach and just say "Formidable!"

PAUL TAYLOR

To 26 Feb: 0181 741 2255

Peerless progress

THEATRE

PEER GYNT
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AMID HIS extraordinary peregrinations, Ibsen's *Peer Gynt* fetches up among the Circle of Seventy Interpreters. It's been recently increased, says his host, sweeping an arm round the auditorium, to 650. And so we are all, before this amazing and disconcerting play, interpreters. Or rather part-interpreters, for it is exhilaratingly complex: philosophical, comic, tragic, satiric, and fantastic.

Sometimes director Graham Murray takes us sportively by the hand as in the scene where the "lunatics", freed following the passing away of Reason, emerge as Marx, Freud, Einstein and Chris Evans. Best of all, Feilah, a comic type representing Ibsen's perpetual obsession with the burden of the past, turns out to be Tony Blair (mimicked superbly by Joseph Murray), whose particular load is a papoose holding the mummified figure of Mrs Thatcher.

But the progress of *Peer Gynt*, madcap as it is, is not a game, nor does this production turn it into one. The incorrigible boy-fantast who we meet telling his mother of riding a stag over glaciers, and who elopes with another's bride at her wedding, visits the troll-kingdom, travels the world making and losing fortunes only to return home shipwrecked after 50 years, is a picaresque hero who, for all his journeys through the material and unconscious worlds, can never discover his own self. Famously, he sees himself in the onion he peels: all layers and nothing at the centre.

If there is an English actor protean enough to seize the metamorphoses of *Peer Gynt*, it is David Threlfall. The shaven-headed kid tugging impatiently at his mother's attention as he tells his tale becomes the pursued but potent youth exulting that "This Is Life!". In middle-age, he is the suave, pony-tailed millionaire, Turkish pasha, fake maharishi and interrogator of the Sphinx. He returns home as shorn and restless a survivor as the Ancient Mariner.

Threlfall sheds and dons these skins with bewildering, though increasingly agonised facility. But following him as a physical being rather than an abstraction, we can see the helix of continuity. Threlfall has the capacity to reduce his countenance to fearful essentials: a mask simply punctuated by eye sockets and a blow-hole mouth. Through the play's swells, it colours, fills and animates, but from boy to old age this imprint, an uncomfortable "kind of old scarecrow", remains and returns. No wonder Peer would rather keep his identity in Hell than be reduced in the Button-Moulder's lair, and the connection of physical being and identity may also run across the conclusion that his true self inheres in Solveig's constant love. But that will happen when ideas are made flesh, especially in a performance as distinctive and magnificent as this.

And so much more: Josette Bushell-Mingo, erect and serene as Solveig, contrastingly sensual elsewhere; the decisive strokes of Simon Higlett's design, especially the aerial ballet of white birds; and Akintayo Akinbode's music. Go join the interpreters – and enjoy.

JEFFREY WAINWRIGHT

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body leaping into a question mark at some impenetrable example of women's behaviour. His stand-up expertise means he's marvellously relaxed and can time arguments and gags beautifully, raising big laughs on the absurdities of men. That explains male group bonding and fear of intimacy in, say, cricket: "A bunch of guys hanging out but far from each other... You've got all your mates around you... but not too close."

Becker argues that gender divides us into different cultures, languages and customs. Far from spurning women, prehistoric man worshipped them for their magic. Men have a narrower focus: they want to trap and kill while women go out gathering. Yes, we're back with the old hunter-gatherer dichotomy explaining everything about divergences between the sexes. After centuries of mutual

misunderstanding, we're told, we must move on, and cherish those differences.

In Little's hands, much of this is very funny, but the longer it goes on, the more you begin to believe that the writer came up with the equation first, then dragged in examples to fit it. Even Little's engaging Australian filter on the proceedings cannot disguise the utterly American tone. Not on the heels of some smartly comic stuff about the gender differences on sex, the final section shifts into proselytising mode with more than a whiff of "the inner child".

Becker's piece is about banishing blame: it's no one's fault. That's a great way to appeal to both sexes, but it also amazingly absolves men of all responsibility for the problem. Well, he would, wouldn't he? *Defending the Caveman* may try to be even-handed in the gender agenda, but face it, it was written by a man.

DAVID BENEDICT

A version of this review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper

DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE HAVE MOVED

From tomorrow, Design will appear in Saturday's paper. And from next week, Architecture will be in the Monday Review

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Peer
prog

MUSIC

Woolly? Not any more

The Cardigans have come a long way from the fey Indie pop of their first albums and the transatlantic hit 'Lovefool'. Watch out world, it's time for electro-road rock. By Andrew Mueller

On the standard journalistic litmus test for determining the degree to which a pop group have impressed themselves on the consciousness of a foreign nation, The Cardigans score 50 per cent. The passport officer at Boston's Logan Airport has heard of them; the taxi driver hasn't. The passport officer, indeed, is familiar enough with their work to be able intelligently to discuss their progression from the barbed bubblegum of 1997's fresh-faced transatlantic hit 'Lovefool' to the coquettish clatter of the current American single, 'My Favourite Game'.

The taxi driver, for his part, loses the plot as soon as The Cardigans' homeland of Sweden is introduced into the conversation: he doesn't appear to have heard of it. The Cardigans clearly still have some work to do.

"Not really," shrugs Nina Persson. "I don't think we'll get much bigger over here than we already are. This is our third tour and we've played the same venues every time. But getting bigger is not really our goal. We know that what happened with 'Lovefool' was an exception."

Persson, The Cardigans' singer, is possibly the most Swedish-looking person in the world. She sits at the end of a table in the band's Boston hotel and chain-smokes cheerfully while the other Cardigans contemplate their brunches. Peter Svensson, the guitarist, whose blond roots show through the black dye in his hair, occasionally adds observations. Bengt Lagerberg, the drummer, and Lasse Johansson, the guitarist/keyboardist, say nothing. The bass-player Magnus Svenningsson isn't even here, having cried off this leg of The Cardigans' world tour pleading exhaustion.

Svenningsson has been replaced, temporarily, by Lars Ljungberg, an acquaintance of The Cardigans from Malmö, and a man whose unlikely Swedish/Italian/Egyptian parentage has blessed him with a resemblance to the late Phil Lynott, which is appropriate to the startlingly leather-trousered and rocking Cardigans of 1999. The Cardigans have changed a great deal since they emerged from Malmö in 1994 as a group of prim teenagers harbouring a perhaps unhelpful fascination with the fey edges of the British Indie spectrum – so resolutely Anglophile were they that their debut album was entitled *Emmerdale*.

"Whatever most artists do is a reaction to what they did last," says Persson. "After we did *Emmerdale*, we were accused of being, you know, so young, and so pretentious..."

"Eighteen and practically dead," smirks Svensson, obviously recalling a favourite review of the time. "So we made the *Life* album," continues Persson, "which was the complete contrary, and people started to connect us with easy listening and kitsch, which we hated, so we made *First Band on the Moon*. This time, we're a lot more mature and a lot more secure as a band, so we can dare to be serious. We're getting progy."

She's only half joking. *Gran Turismo*, The Cardigans' current fourth and best album, is an ambitious affair. The sounds on it are mostly electronic – Svensson happily acknowledges a debt



The Cardigans: so resolutely Anglophile that their debut album was entitled 'Emmerdale'

to Depeche Mode – the songs relentlessly mournful, and Persson's vocals pristine and much more played-up than previously. The Cardigans appear to have realised, at last, what a fine thing their singer's voice is, as capable of glacial impersonality as it is of luxuriant melancholy.

"We knew that we wanted to record with electronic equipment," confirms Persson. "That automatically brings a certain feel to it. We wanted to be a little more serious and suggestive than before. We were thrilled and surprised by what happened when we started to record."

Gran Turismo – it isn't named after the PlayStation game – was recorded at the conclusion of an eight-month break the band took from writing and playing after a year of touring on the back of 'Lovefool'. This bleak little ballad, with its irresistible chorus ("Love me, love me! Say that you love me"), became a worldwide hit after being included in the sound-track of Baz

Luhrmann's film of *Romeo + Juliet*. The mayhem that ensued seems still to confuse the band, not least because 'Lovefool', when you listened to the verses ("I don't care if you really care/ As long as you don't go") was as far from a Valentine's card greeting as could be imagined. The Cardigans have previously attempted to compare it, in tone, to Dusty Springfield's epicly self-abasing "You Don't Have to Say You Love Me".

"We took the break," says Svensson, "because we just lost sight of what it was all about, and the whole 'Lovefool' thing was a big part of that. I still really like that song, I think it's amazing. I'm really happy about it. But suddenly it's become the most difficult song for me to play for some reason. Last night, in Providence, I realised that every single time we perform it and I do the back-up vocals on the chorus, I can't remember the words. And they're the most simple words ever written. But I forgot them. Every single night."

The final element of The Cardigans' conversion from winsome Indie janglers to electro-rock road warriors came with the release of "My Favourite Game", the first single from *Gran Turismo*. The accompanying video was directed by Jonas Åkerblom, the film-maker responsible for the globally prohibited video for The Prodigy's "Smack My Bitch Up". The video depicts Nina placing a hefty rock on the accelerator of a convertible and careering down a desert highway, wreaking no end of entertaining havoc. Four endings to the video were shot: one of them shows a catastrophic pile-up involving a caravan, after which Nina's pretty, severed head – or at least a model thereof – bounces and rolls towards the sunset. The video has been banned by just about everybody, least impressionable young Cardigans fans suddenly decide that it would be cool to decapitate themselves in car accidents.

"It was fun," giggles Persson. "Did

you notice the way the tattoo keeps coming off on the car seat?"

"My Favourite Game", it transpires, was not originally written as the arrestingly punky pop song that appears on *Gran Turismo*. It was conceived, says Svensson, as a boogie-woogie torch song, an echo of Nina Simone's "My Baby Just Cares for Me", "but Bengt couldn't get the drum part right, so it's all his fault". Later that day, the two will perform this version of the song live at the studios of Boston's WCBN, and it will sound haunting and fantastic.

"It's good to be doing this again," decides Persson. "Now we know this is our choice, and it can be a drag and it can be really exhausting sometimes, but it is our job. I'm starting to understand that thing they say, that after a certain amount of years on the road it's impossible to do anything else."

'Erase/Rewind' is out on Monday; *'Gran Turismo'* is available now. Both are on Polydor

GOD IS IN THE DETAILS

THE INDEPENDENT'S GUIDE TO POP'S FIDDLY BITS
NO 3: 'THE GREAT PRETENDER'



Stan Freberg: music and humour were inescapably intertwined

COMPLETE SILENCES are rare in records aimed at radio air-play – DJs dread the spectre of dead air time – but dramatic pauses are to be treasured. And there's a priceless gap about two-and-a-half minutes into Stan Freberg's "The Great Pretender". This is a comedy record in which a melodramatic pop vocalist battles with an unco-operative hipster pianist on a session. "I got the same chord over and over," complains the latter, "my hand is falling off!" Though obliged to play a bland, repetitive piano vamp – the kind that accompanied scores of Fifties hits – the sideman attempts to sneak in his favourite cool jazz licks. At one point he gets away with the opening six-note phrase from George Shearing's "Lullaby of Birdland". The exasperation of the vocal artiste mounts until he threatens the disruptive musician with non-payment: "You play that clink-clink-clink jazz or you won't get paid tonight!" he yelps. The entire studio (and record) goes silent.

The endless break that follows (only a second or two, in fact) marks a kind of epiphany for the musician. Before the record is out, he has embraced both the

demands of the market-place and a new aesthetic, attacking the repetitive, minimalist triplet part with a manic intensity that would be equalled only several years later, by Steve Reich's "Oh Dem Watermelons". "Don't stop me now man," cries the piano man, "I've got to where I like it."

"The Great Pretender" may not be as musically expert (or even as funny) as Freberg's "The Banana Boat Song" or as good a pastiche as his "Heartbreak Hotel", in which an Elvis-soundalike becomes entangled in repeat echo. But this track, and in particular that exquisite pause, may have unwittingly captured a pivotal (almost tragic) moment in musical and cultural history: only a few twists and turns of the globe before the rock'n'roller mutates into all-round family entertainer and the jazz shaves off his goatee to join Warhol's Factory – or at the very least becomes Philip Glass. Listen and weep.

Does humour belong in music? Frank Zappa asked the question much later without coming to a conclusion that anyone could take seriously. As far as Freberg is concerned, they're inseparable.

JOHN L WALTERS

HMV

new breed of music



JIMI TENOR ORGANISM

Grabbing the baton from where his debut album *Intervision* left off, *Organism* again shows Jimi Tenor's jazz and exotica influences but widens the scope this time to encompass Afrika Bambaataa, Parliament, gospel music and a 60 piece Finnish choral group. Recorded in Barcelona, New York, Berlin, London and Finland, the outcome is a fantastically varied piece of work.

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Out on his Todd again

Todd Rundgren is a pioneer. His eclectic albums were the benchmark for a decade, his innovative studio techniques one step ahead of the music industry. So now he's bypassing it altogether. By Robert Webb

Go ahead, ignore me!" ran the tag line on ads for Todd Rundgren records in the Seventies. The music business doesn't often try reverse psychology to get a sale, but Todd does things differently. Songwriter, video pioneer, producer, recording artist, computer software developer, interactive artist, company director: in many ways, it's been difficult to ignore this multi-media wizard. Born and raised in Philadelphia, Rundgren is best known for a string of albums on the Bearsville label made between 1970 and 1982, now getting the digitally remastered treatment. And they're wonderful. Beach Boy harmonies collide with soulful ballads and fifties revival: progressive knob-twiddling fuses with bubblegum simplicity. Even Gilbert & Sullivan find their way in. These records bump and grind together like the plate tectonics of Seventies pop. To find out more, I catch up with Rundgren during rehearsals for a US tour with Ringo Starr.

"C'mon Todd, Gilbert & Sullivan: what was all that about? "I played that stuff because my dad hated it and when I was young he wouldn't allow it in the house," he chuckles. "Anyways, if you were a Beatles fan you had to think eclectically." Sure enough, the first album, *Runt*, became a paradigm for the musically disparate decade to come. Name-checked by Patti Smith as "a sort of rock'n'roll Ravel", great things were expected.

By 1972, though, and unhappy with the marketing commitments expected of him and the infidelities of an avaricious music industry, he began to close ranks. Holing himself up in the studio, on his Todd, as it were, he wrote, played, arranged and produced *The Ballad of Todd Rundgren* and the brilliant *Something/Anything*, hailed by *Rolling Stone* magazine as the "best album Paul McCartney never made". An array of guitars, keyboards, drums, fiddles, and bells were plucked, struck and double-tracked by the versatile Rundgren. "I learned the guitar when I was six and pretty quickly

could pick out the songs by ear faster than the teacher could show me them. Every time there was an instrument around, I learned to play something on it."

An innovative engineer, he was

also one of the first to realise the potential of the studio as an instrument. This was fine-tuned on the pop-glam sprawl *A Wizard, A True Star*, and its follow-up, *Todd*.

Both records now sound modern and sparkle in their remastered form, but was different in the mid-Seventies. Rundgren remembers *A Wizard* as an effort to "take the stream of consciousness that was going through my head at the time and imprint it to the medium". It's no secret that psychedelic drugs also played a part. "I realised you could look at the surface of a record as an unbroken canvas and paint anything you wanted on it," he explains. "So I gave up the idea of songs that had beginnings and endings and looked at sound and music as one continuous mishmash of stuff."

For many, Rundgren had hit the self-destruct button. But then he has always been more interested in making music than marketable records. This is evident from his website (rundgren.com), where new TR material can be downloaded on a pay-to-hear basis. By cutting out several middlemen, Rundgren has all but disengaged himself from the industry and recording costs are mostly underwritten by his online subscribers. "I'm always making music," he enthuses, as well as completing his

autobiography for publication next year. But a principal interest remains the opportunities in interactive technology. "Within 10 years, a significant portion of the audience is going to cease buying CDs," he declares. "It takes too long and costs too much. But the industry is in a revolutionary spin and terrified of methods that threaten to undercut their profit."

Are devices like the MP3s which enable listeners to download music from the Net going to change the face of music consumption? "Sure, but

that isn't what's causing the crisis. The industry consistently took the market for granted. Now audience demands are changing, but record companies are clueless. If Todd is right, we can look forward to many more artists, as he puts it, 'electronically reconceptualising' their output on the Internet - as well as, one presumes, mass unemployment in the record industry."

"Music is destined to become a service. The listening experience is what matters." For those of us

stuck with old-fashioned listening experiences, the Bearsville reissues and an excellent *Best Of, Go Ahead, Ignore Me*, are a reminder that the Seventies were more than Gary Glitter and your dad's Gilbert & Sullivan records.

Runt, *The Ballad of Todd Rundgren*, *Something/Anything*, *A Wizard, A True Star* and *Todd* are re-released on Castle on Monday. Rundgren's website is at: www.tri.com/

Todd Rundgren: always more interested in making great music than in turning out marketable records

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THIS WEEK'S ALBUM RELEASES
REVIEWED BY ANDY GILL



JIMI TENOR
Organism

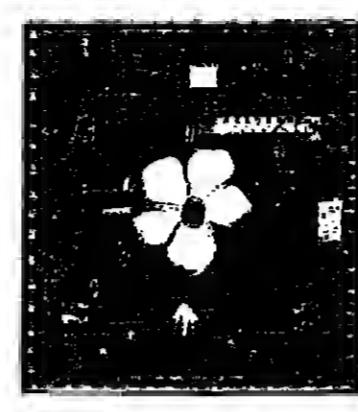
TECHNO IS truly the international language of pop as we race towards the millennium: after the French wave of Daft Punk, Air and Bob Sinclar, here's the Finnish method (by way of Barcelona), courtesy of cool blond über-nerd Jimi Tenor. Quirky and quixotic, it's bags of fun, and aptly titled, too, Tenor blending his beats and samples to produce a warm, organic sound that's light years away from the more glacial tones of techno purists like his fellow countrymen Pan Sonic.

Tenor heralded his approach on this second album with the infectious single "Year of the Apocalypse", a slinky soul mambo anthem stating his firm determination to party on in the face of millennial doom. It's a dirty job, but with tracks as powerful as "Total Devastation", Jimi's the man to get it done. A monster funk groove barrelling along with the force of a runaway train, it boasts the most propulsive bass part since Parliament put the motherhip into mothballs.

Elsewhere, Jimi's methods are more subtle, with a distinct jazz influence in many cases: "Beach Boy" is a delightful slice of early Sun Ra-style ship-of-the-

desert soul-jazz, enigmatic but entertaining, while the twists of melody taken by the crepuscular "Sleep" would seem to owe as much to Charles Mingus as to anyone. Tenor's forte, however, is the kind of remoulded Sixties-style film music he devises for "Kinotepe Heat", where raspy sax and cool flute alternate solos over an understated, slinky funk groove embellished with occasional electric harpsichord glissandi: evocative, oddly timeless, it's like the theme to a surreal American cop show that somehow finds itself beached on the brink of the next century.

However, there's a pronounced element of camp in some of Tenor's music that can get annoying. It's not so much the fault of his arch, treated vocals on tracks such as "Muchmo" and "Serious Love" as to his horns and strings sometimes overwhelm with their heavy irony. In the face of the latter song's absurdly melodramatic orchestral stabs and chord changes, Jimi's murmured desire for some "serious loving" takes on a decidedly sinister aspect. Though that's what you might expect from a man who claims "I want to be a palm-reader/So I can lie about your fate".



STEVE EARLE AND THE
DEL McCOURY BAND
The Mountain

THE LATE Nineties have been something of a golden period for Steve Earle: this is his fourth album in as many years, and they've all been decent efforts.

The Mountain is no exception, offering a stream of agreeable surprises at the way Earle's weather-beaten, rock-infected country dovetails so neatly into the frisky playing of the McCoury brothers' award-winning bluegrass outfit. They're in perfect equilibrium on "Young Forever Blue", a womanizer's *mea culpa*, in which Earle's weary drawl leans comfortably against mandolin and fiddle, while there's a manic grace to the more uptempo numbers such as "Leroy's Dustbowl Blues", which dashes along regardless of its sombre subject matter.

The album's centre-piece comprises a pair of mining songs, "Haran Man" and "The Mountain". It's not an optimistic picture: where the Haran Man hopes to be a miner as long as his luck and his lungs hold out, the old-timer in "The Mountain" provides a more sober overview:

"There's a chill in the air only miners can feel/There's ghosts in the tunnels that the company sealed."



TLC
Fanmail

THERE'S SOMETHING eerily appropriate about the way that Tionne, Lisa and Chilli's hue, disembodied heads float across *Fanmail's* 3D cover, like virtual cybersex sirens just waiting for your call. It matches perfectly the virtual nature of their voices, so smothered in reverbs that they seem to float like holograms. This lends them a weightless grace which, for all their sauciness, still manages to make the mannequin antics of their peers seem crude and mechanical by comparison.

All three girls contribute songs, the best being Tionne's "Unpretty", a complaint about someone who makes her feel "so damned unpretty" - which is hard to imagine. It's certainly harder to warrant than Lisa's self-determination anthem, "My Life", which is a proclamation of her right to notoriety (and this is hardly in doubt, following her alleged torching of the US footballer Andre Wilson's \$2m mansion).

Otherwise, it's business as usual: they still push near the sexual knuckle with other girl groups, with brazen tracks like "Don't Pull Out On Me Yet", though the charmless Babyface ballad "I Miss You So Much" surely over-compensates for their salter attitude elsewhere.



SEBADOH
Donno

THE DEFINITE article in the title is well-earned: this seventh album is clearly Sebadoh's most solid effort, boasting a coherency which previous releases lacked.

In particular, the disparity between Lou Barlow's morose ruminations and Jason Loewenstein's more energetic, thrashier numbers is much less pronounced than before. For the first time, they sound something like a real band, rather than singers taking turns. Barlow's resolute gumminess can still grow tiresome, but overall there's a conviction and unity to the album which is long overdue.

The ringing guitars and haunting harmonies of the single "Weird on the Way" place the group firmly back in the American guitar-rock mainstream that flows from The Byrds to REM and beyond, though elsewhere they remain committed to exploring less obvious musical currents. In "Bird in the Hand", the result sounds like grunge played with the wrong chords, preferable to grunge played with the right chords but of questionable utility, even so. Still, there's enough progress on *The Sebadoh* to compensate and, as they explain in "It's All You", "This is good. It's all we have."



ANJA GARBAREK
Balloon Mood

THE DAUGHTER of the Norwegian jazz sax stylist Jan, Anja Garbarek has already made waves in Scandinavia with this debut album, which was released there in 1996.

It's easy to see why, just as Jan has tried to push accepted musical boundaries through collaborations, so Anja draws on a wide range of styles and sources for her eclectic sound.

The co-producer Marius DeVries has obviously been influential in developing some of these grooves, which partake of techno synth lines, slowed down gamelan and Burundi percussion, radio tuning loops, yawning double-bass, found noises and sawing strings.

The results find Garbarek occupying a position close to Björk and Slim Nordestam, on the cusp of modern pop and more experimental modes of sound organisation.

Sung in a cutesy variant of Nordenstam's chilly-infant style, Garbarek's songs are mostly about alienation and the superiority of an imaginative inner life over mundane reality - a position that is reflected in the balance between airy vocal and more leaden groove on "Picking up Pieces", Earthbound but aspirant.

The beat comes from the heart

US rapper Everlast is a man reborn. He's a little wiser, a little mellower. And he's ready to sing the blues. By James McNair

KEITH RICHARDS once explained that he wore a ghoul skull-ring on his finger to remind him to enjoy life while it lasted. Erik Schrödy, aka Everlast, has a *momento mori* that's rather more personal. Last February, this multi-platinum selling rapper had a near-fatal heart attack while recording the album *Whitley Ford Sings the Blues*. The subsequent operation left him with a huge scar which bisects his chest. "Sometimes I'll get out of the shower, and when I look in the mirror, it takes me by surprise again", he says. "It reminds me to be grateful that God gave men the technology to save my life."

Schrödy's heart-attack was that wake-up call that nobody books: the one that turns your life upside-down and forces you to re-assess everything. It was, however, a process he'd already started. In 1996 he split-up his former band House of Pain (anyone remember "Jump Around"?), at their commercial peak. Schrödy had quit drinking, and this distanced him from his bandmates Danny O'Connor and Leon Diamant. He also knew that House of Pain had become a cleverly-marketed product based on braggadocio and a hard-living image.

Those who know him say that he's mellowed. The night before we met, he and his band had supported Hole at the Patriot Centre in Washington. A load of their equipment had gone

make money, I had to quit," he says. As its platinum status in the US confirms, there's far more to *Whitley Ford Sings the Blues* than the story behind it. A beguiling blend of samples, blue-collar politics, acoustic guitars, and the occasional Erik Satie-esque piano, it's a mature, often affecting record which goes some way towards defining the future of song-based hip hop. Think Neil Young with De La Soul producing.

In his Washington hotel room, Schrödy conducts our interview with the television on and the sound turned down. He tells me that the album is about "shedding fears", fear of loneliness, fear of God, even the simple fear of how the record itself might be perceived. "This is the most emotional album I've made, and I'm supposed to be The House of Pain tough guy, you know?" he smiles.

"It's raw and it's honest though, and even people with an agenda are finding it hard to diss that."

In the silences between his answers I can bear a soft, metronomic ticking. Thanks to a plastic heart-valve, Everlast has become a human beat-box.

Those who know him say that he's mellowed. The night before we met, he and his band had supported Hole at the Patriot Centre in Washington. A load of their equipment had gone



Everlast: not just some white guy from America

The record's sleeve has a shot of Schrödy stripped to the waist, and to the left of his operation scar the words "Sein Fein" are tattooed on his chest.

He sighs deeply when I question him about it, and concedes that there's talk of air-brushing the tattoo from the British CD sleeve. "But then it'll just become a different question, and I'll have to answer for that too," he says.

He goes on to explain that he's third-generation Irish on his mother's side, and that although he's not pretending to be "bona-fide County Cork", his Irish roots give him a sense

of being someone other than "some white guy from America".

He repeatedly states that he doesn't condone violence of any kind, and stresses that when he got the tattoo, he was naive about its political implications.

"For me, it was just the literal meaning: that thing of you come in alone, you die alone", he says. "If people can't understand that, that's fine. Just don't kill me over it."

Whitley Ford Sings the Blues is released by Tommy Boy records on 1 March

RIFFS

THE FIRST AND LATEST RECORDS BOUGHT BY PLACEBO'S BRIAN MOLKO

Michael Jackson *Thriller*
I got *Thriller* from John Menzies for £3.69. The song I best remember is "Beat It". The gang fight in the video was exactly the image I had in mind from the song. But the part I remember most is Vincent Price. I was a real horror movie fan and I remember his deep, gravel voice saying "The funk of 40,000 years...". In retrospect, I prefer *Off the Wall*, which is much better for dancing.

Add N to X *Third Eye Foundation*
I heard of this electronic band because they are popular with the weekly music papers. They are

avant-garde electronic pioneers. It's far more extreme than much of punk music, which is why they interest me. The album's sleeve is fantastic. It shows a body on an operating table with wires coming out of its insides like an electric keyboard. It's hard to describe what they sound like - the sound of space in 1999, a rave in a sewer - something bizarre. You become quite involved in the music, and although it's a difficult album to listen to, they challenge themselves sonically.

Placebo's new single, "Every You Every Me", is out now (Hut)

NME THIS WEEK: BLUR'S NEW SINGLE. THE VERDICT.



I'M SURE I SAW THEM ON A POSTER...

THE INDEPENDENT'S REGULAR ROUND-UP OF NEW BANDS

CARTOON WERE nice boys with nice songs. They smiled while they sang, and they sang about things which made them glad. At the top of their list were summer holidays, sunshine and girls. Appropriately enough, two members of the band met while working in a Mozzarella factory in Wales. It would be invidious to

knock Cartoon for being happy all the time - they are, after all, a "cartoon" band - but you couldn't help thinking they would have continued smiling if the roof had caved in and reduced their (smiling) fans to a mangled mush. Cartoon's guitar-based bubblegum pop is meant to warm hearts, but left me cold.

There was youthful enthusiasm from Glasgow four-piece Astrid - not to be confused with the Scottish singer of the same name. Their songs have lyrics that overflow with adolescent whimsy. "I'm a boy, you're a girl! Even when you rock my world", went their penultimate track, the subtext being: I can't stop

CARTOON
THE GARAGE, LONDON
ASTRID
THE GARAGE, LONDON
SPACE RAIDERS
DINGWALLS, LONDON

thinking about sex even though you're quite a laugh too. Sweet and to the point. Astrid's fluffy blonde tresses echoed the salubrious American siblings, Hanson, as did their on-stage antics. They bobbed up and down, earnestly nodded their heads and screwed up their faces when reaching for the high notes. These are exactly the kind of winsome ditties that Hanson

will be doing when they finally grow up. Even Hanson would draw the line at the kindergarten antics of Space Raiders. Taking a leaf out of their Skint-labelmates Bentley Rhythm Ace's book, they had donned comedy outfits for the occasion and brandished plastic rayguns and similar *Space Invaders* toys from behind the decks.

After the runaway success of Fatboy Slim aka Norman Cook, it seems that a stamp of approval from the Skint label is all an aspiring dance band needs to pack a venue to the rafters. As a result, Space Raiders had a lot to live up to. Following in the Big Beat tradition, they had the requisite visual elements - Sixties B movie

inspired film loops as well as graphic artwork that seemed to have been shamelessly lifted from the Beastie Boys. But despite their wacky appearance, their music was pleasantly normal. They stuck to the Skint formula of mixing mellow lounge grooves with house rhythms, but they remained mercifully detached from the crashing drum rolls and endless sampling of their colleagues.

The fluidity of their sound was marred by the presence of a seemingly redundant man with a megaphone and drumsticks, but in spite of his persistent air drumming, Space Raiders came up with an energizing, if not altogether inventive, show.

FIONA STURGES



Noodling with Kelly McGillis

The fatalistic beauty of Jon Sanders' *Painted Angels* is complemented by its delicate soundtrack by Douglas Finch - proof at last that film music needn't be bland

WHAT MAKES a good sound-track? Transplantability, say the music promoters, pointing to the Titanic concerts that pack their balls. Saleability, say the record companies, pointing to the swelling sound-track sections in the stores. With such rich pickings, it's no wonder that the composers play along, but the artistic price is a deadly sameness. That is why the scores for films such as *Wilde*, *The Woodlanders*, *Wings of the Dove* and *Mrs Brown* - the list could go on *ad infinitum* - are virtually interchangeable.

Next week sees the opening of Jon Sanders' *Painted Angels*, whose sound-track is a wonderful portent, despite running to a mere 18 minutes of music. Why so? Because the score and its film both represent an extraordinary triumph of artistic will. Sanders' angels are five prostitutes in a 19th-century Saskatchewan brothel: Mizoguchi's *Street of Shame*, set in a Tokyo brothel in the Fifties, was both its inspiration and its template. Dwelling on faces, voices, and the harshness of the landscape, Sanders presents humanity scraped bare; his film's fatalistic flute music of its score.

But since it sees men through women's eyes - and in this house of "pleasure" they're a stomach-turning sight - the film has made enemies, including the directors of the London Film Festival and the Canadian-based company which co-financed it. Sanders was ordered to shorten and soften the film, and when he refused, it was recut behind his back and the sound-track was replaced by *Rideau*-style pap. Mercifully, the recut was so execrable that Sanders' film was eventually spared, and after a deliberately sabotaged release - an unadvertised three-day run in an obscure Canadian cinema - *Painted Angels* is now entering the British art-house circuit.

Douglas Finch is head of key-board studies at Trinity College of Music, and a modernist composer

SIGHT READINGS



MICHAEL CHURCH

with no previous experience of film. He was hired by Sanders because, as a Canadian, he fitted the project's contractual obligations. Sanders didn't want a score that bolstered the action in the conventional manner; he told Finch to emulate the way Bresson and Andrei Tarkovsky used music in their films - sparingly, appearing in the interstices of the action.

Both the score and its film represent a great triumph of artistic will

"He told me he wanted a lot of different wind noises," says Finch. "So I had a series of flutes specially made, including a Mongolian one with overtones. I went for a sound which wasn't absolutely true, more an extension of the sounds in nature."

Discovering that Finch was a celebrated improviser, Sanders decided to pestle the score out of him through a process of suggestion and response which, in the final rushed moments of editing, had to continue over the telephone.

Finch rejected all advice to hire film-music professionals and instead brought in his own ensemble,

with wonderfully fresh results. Moreover, in this film all the music we see played on screen is really being played - not a single note was dubbed in afterwards.

This was somewhat daunting for the actress Kelly McGillis, who had to officiate at the piano for some Victorian home-theatres, since she could either play music nor read it. Finch solved the problem by providing her with a graphic score bearing instructions such as "big clusters on black notes only" and "start noodling with fingers, gradually getting higher up the keyboard". After six weeks' intensive piano instruction - shades of Emily Watson in *Hilary and Jackie* - McGillis gave an entirely adequate performance.

AT A much more exalted level, an adequate performance is what Sir Claus Moser will be praying for when he plays Mozart's Piano Concerto No 23 at a charity concert at St John's, Smith Square, London on Tuesday.

For Sir Claus - whose public duties include running the British Museum Development Trust - is a musical amateur. In his home town of Berlin he started piano lessons at the age of five with a pupil of Liszt, and when his family had to flee from the Nazis to Britain in the Thirties, Moser was sent to a boarding school where he immediately carved a niche for himself as a pianist.

"When I was 13," he recalls, "my piano teacher, to whom I was devoted, said something which upset me very much: 'Claus, you're a good pianist, but you'll never be

one of the top 10 pianists in the world, either technically, or by temperament.' That was shrewd of him: I correctly sensed that I didn't have the nerve to be a soloist."

He went on to become one of Britain's top statisticians, and was chairman of the Royal Opera House in its earlier, better days.

Twelve years ago, Moser had begun to play in college concerts,



Jon Sanders' *Painted Angels*, whose soundtrack represents an extraordinary triumph of artistic will

persuaded the great Hungarian pianist Louis Kentner to give him lessons, his first in four decades. "And at that point I realised that over the years I had been, pianistically speaking, going downhill." Meanwhile, as warden of Wadham, he had

begun to play in college concerts,

and four years ago had the satisfaction of playing his first date in St John's in Smith Square. "I felt that aged 72, I had proved my piano teacher wrong: I was a concert pianist. That was the happiest

moment of my life."

Now aged 76, and with a quad-

pleural heart-bypass behind him, Moser has no qualms about being able to play the notes.

"Age is no excuse for a decline in technique, so long as you keep on practising," he says. "The mental challenge - being able to concentrate fully for 30 minutes - is much higher than the physical one. No, I just hope that, as I'm beginning to grow up, my performances may become more truly musical."

Then he quotes Artur Schnabel's famous dictum about Mozart being too easy for children, and too difficult for adults.

GENE

ESSENCE

THE COMPACT COLLECTION

ROB COWAN ON THE WEEK'S NEW CD RELEASES

MOST MUSIC-LOVERS know Prokofiev's witty "Classical" Symphony, and almost as many will have heard the heroic Fifth; but his Sixth - and greatest by far - is more of a rarity. Decca prepared one of the symphony's earliest recordings (under the legendary Swiss maestro Ernest Ansermet) and now it has given us its latest - a muscular, elegantly shaped and cogently argued account under Charles Dutoit.

I have to say that this performance surprised me. Not that I doubt the conductor's skills, or indeed the proficiency of Japan's excellent NHK Symphony Orchestra. I had not previously thought of Dutoit as a profound symphonic interpreter; yet he brings uncharacteristic urgency to the opening allegro moderato, jabbing at the downtrodden brass chords that set things in motion and keeping a firm hand on the glowering processional that sits at the movement's centre. Here, performers and engineers collaborate to impressive effect and the *Romeo and Juliet* selections (eight pieces in all) that precede the symphony include one of the most imposing portrayals of Prokofiev's "Montagues and Capulets" that I have ever heard.

Another surprise arrives courtesy of Maurizio Pollini, Claudio Abbado, the Berlin Philharmonic and Deutsche Grammophon in a "live" recording of Brahms's First Piano Concerto. Not the repertoire is surprising, or indeed the marmoreal properties of Pollini's playing. But the coltish spontaneity of the reading, its rhapsodie - albeit controlled - rubato and driving passion all suggest inspiration caught on the wing. It's all too easy to forget that this is young man's music, and Pollini plays it with more

youthfulness than his younger self managed 20-odd years ago under Karl Böhm (also for DG). Abbado's strong-arm conducting undoubtedly helps and the recording is suitably resplendent - though attentive headphones listening reveals one or two conspicuous tape snips. "Live" it may be, but it certainly isn't a single, unedited performance.

Years ago, when 78s were the audio carriers of the day, editing wasn't even an option. You sang or played your heart out, and if something went wrong you simply did it again. Which is why so many people nowadays go back to old records - because they deliver real performances. Among recent vocal reissues, I was particularly attracted to a three-CD set of "The Essential Pierre Bernac", transferred from EMI 78s for the Testament label.

Bernac was the pre-eminent French baritone of his generation, and a superb teacher. His voice may not have been the most beautiful of the day, but his use of it, his diction, his sense of poetry and the emotional candour of his interpretations were breathtaking. A previously unissued account of Schumann's *Dichterliebe* song-cycle is only partially successful (Bernac was a little past his prime in 1950), but earlier

recordings of songs by Liszt and the masters of French chanson, most notably those by Francis Poulenc (Bernac's friend and regular pianist), will henceforth enrich your musical memory bank. Try Chabrier's *l'ile heureuse* (disc 1, track 4), and I challenge you to resist.

Prokofiev: Dutoit: Decca 458 190-2; Brahms/Pollini: DG 447 011-2; The Essential Bernac: Testament SBT3161 (three discs)

A new CD box-set celebrates 25 years of innovation and exuberance from the Kronos Quartet. By Phil Johnson

We sing the body eclectic

THE YEAR is 1973. The futile, useless war in Vietnam slogs to a close. So begins Alan Rich's chronology of the Kronos Quartet in the booklet that accompanies Nonesuch's handsomely appointed 25th-anniversary boxed set. The tone may seem a little apocalyptic - a little *Apocalypse Now*, even - but it isn't entirely misplaced. In the quarter-century since a 22-year-old violinist from Seattle called David Harrington founded what would go on to become the most popular string quartet in the world, a quiet revolution in classical music has taken place.

The historical context is relevant too, for Harrington's sense of mission was first inspired by a 1973 radio broadcast of George Crumb's *Black Angels*. "It seemed like a musical response to the Vietnam war," Harrington says in a quote from the booklet.

"I didn't even know it was quartet music at first, but it was a magnetic experience. All of a sudden I felt that this was the right music to listen to."

In the years that have followed, the success of Kronos's commando raids into the hallowed ground of the traditional string quartet repertoire (with more than 400 new works commissioned so far) has helped to break down the resistance to contemporary music in ensembles everywhere. Kronos's recordings of works by jazz and "ethnic" composers have contributed greatly to a general blurring of boundaries between different genres, and the group's eclecticism has encouraged a new, more adventurous attitude among concert and festival promoters. To cap it all, Kronos doesn't wear suits, or even matching flowery waistcoats. While it may sound trivial, their informality in matters of dress and performance style has helped to attract a sizeable new audience to contemporary music.

That said, what's in the box? Understandably, given the cost of the luxurious packaging, most of the contents have appeared before, although



The Kronos Quartet: has helped to break down resistance to contemporary music

there's a number of new or previously unavailable recordings. These include two Arvo Part, a Pizzolla, two Terry Riley, three compositions by the fascinating Tasmanian composer Peter Sculthorpe, and two pieces by the relatively unknown Kent Benshoof, who was David Harrington's composition teacher in high school. It was Benshoof who provided the quartet's first commission, with a bag of doughnuts as his fee. The box's more familiar fare includes the minimalism with which

the quartet is so strongly associated, with pieces by Adams, Feldman, Reich, Glass and Gorecki. Appropriately, the final disc ends with one of Kronos's most praiseworthy works, *White Man Sleeps*, by Kevin Volans.

Regrettably, at least in terms of demonstrating the breadth of the quartet's interests, there's no jazz, and nothing from either their most popular album, *Pieces of Africa*, or the spoken-word pieces on *Howl USA*. For all that, the box is highly impressive,

and there's almost enough music inside to keep listeners busy for the next 25 years. By which time, of course, Schubert and flowery waistcoats may well be the hippest things going.

Kronos Quartet: 25 Years' (Noneuch, 10-CD boxed set)
The quartet plays Glasgow Royal Concert Hall (0141-287 5511) 23 Feb; Cambridge Corn Exchange (01223 357851) 24 Feb; and Warwick Arts Centre (01203 524524) 26 Feb

ON THE AIR

ANTHONY PAYNE

LEONARD SLATKIN is certainly not the first American conductor to espouse the cause of English music. Andre Previn proved himself a superb interpreter of Vaughan Williams and Walton, among others of our native composers, and pursued his enthusiasm with the LSO and RPO as well as with American orchestras. Slatkin, however, is proving himself similarly sympathetic and active, and is beginning to impress on our consciousness both as chief guest conductor of the Philharmonia Orchestra, with whom he conducted an outstanding Elgar Second Symphony at last year's Proms, and as a long-standing propagandist for English music at home. It was interesting to hear how this

artist of such wide musical culture responded to Joan Bakewell's quizzing in Sunday's potted version of *Artist of the Week* on BBC Radio 3.

Slatkin is not the man to fall back on palliatives, and when given the chance to espouse a politically correct view about the role he might play as a musical educator with his orchestra, Washington's National Symphony, he gave a refreshingly honest answer. Slatkin is very far from being elitist, as his increasingly wide repertoire - symphonic jazz, classics, avant-garde, ethnic music - proves. But, asked whether he was aiming to reach out to the ethnically diverse populace of his new city, he admitted that while aiming at accessibility in general, his

main responsibility was to the listener already hooked on classical music, and that such a person is most likely to be white and middle class.

This kind of statement would probably not have endeared him to government funding agencies in our country, yet it cuts across much hypocrisy. Education is not an end in itself; it is a means to a fuller life, and Slatkin sees himself as nourishing that life while leaving the education to others. In our current political climate the process of education seems sometimes to be prized above the creation of art. Seats of education and funds are released; speak of creating the finest work of which you are capable, and the word "elitist" hovers near.

The Secrets of Orchestration, a mini-series under the larger banner of *Sounding the Century* might have been planned before Roger Wright's arrival as head of Radio 3, but it certainly chimes in with our expectations of more serious and musically worthwhile fare. Saturday's edition had Robin Holloway, himself no mean creator of orchestral magic, talking about Debussy's *La Mer*, and it was fascinating to hear that trail-blazing score taken apart and then reassembled layer by layer.

Holloway's fellow presenter Michael Oliver began a little provocatively by alluding to Ravel's criticism of Debussy's orchestration, and Holloway admitted that there are rough moments in the work. This was a talking-point that could have been taken further. Much was made, quite rightly, of the composer's exquisite aural sensibility in manipulating and developing muted shades and tiny flicks of light. But the sea is a rough and salty monster, and Debussy knew that. No exquisitely weighted sonority can represent it at its most threatening and powerful, and Debussy's willingness to offset the delicate with the rough hewn places him in a rather different category from the eternally fidgety and tasteful Ravel. Perhaps Holloway and Oliver spent a little too long on the first movement, leaving no time to explore the finale's cross-grained, gale-driven revelations.

NEW FILMS

AFFLICTION (15)

Director: Paul Schrader
Starring: Nick Nolte, James Coburn, Sissy Spacek, William Dafoe
See *The Independent Recommends*, right.
West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Chelsea Cinema, *Reino*

HOLY MAN (PG)

Director: Stephen Herek
Starring: Eddie Murphy, Jeff Goldblum
Redemption time! Jeff Goldblum plays Ricky, a scumball executive on a home-shopping channel. Eddie Murphy is G, a spiritual wanderer with open sandals and an idiot-savant simper. G and Ricky hook up. Fearful for his job, Ricky uses G as a frontman on the shopping show and sales go through the roof. G, in turn, teaches Ricky a few soulful lessons; you know, about life and stuff. *Holy Man* is a film of bits and pieces. Parts of it (the satirical swipes at *trash TV*, for instance) are very funny, while Murphy and the wired, neurotic Goldblum in particular, both do well in fleshing out what are essentially one-dimensional, archetypal roles. The trouble is, the film never quite hangs together. It skips around trying to find the right tone; starts out as an attack on media-hype, then pulls its punches. It runs worryingly out of steam. West End: Odeon Marble Arch, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

Xan Brooks

THIS YEAR'S LOVE (18)

Director: David Kane
Starring: Douglas Henshall, Kathy Burke, Jennifer Ehle, Ian Hart, Emily Wool, Catherine McCormack

A cast of Britain's finest (Kathy Burke, Ian Hart, Doug Henshall et al) weave to and fro through David Kane's Camden-set essay on urban romance. The plot is airy and simple: six disparate middle-youth types cross-cross each other over a period of three years; their bungled bed-hopping and snatched moments of human contact scored to a voguish pop soundtrack (Garbage, Moreheads, Mercury Rev). Hart excels as a nerdish outcast, Burke as a nurturing rough-diamond pub singer. All are well-served by Kane's generally witty and well-observed screenplay. It's just that *This Year's Love* doesn't quite know when to quit, cranking what might have been a sublime one-hour teleplay into double its natural length. Still, that's modern romance for you. You can't fit it into tidy little boxes. West End: Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. And local cinemas

Xan Brooks

GENERAL RELEASE

ANTZ (PG)

This computer-animated trifly is surely the most unlikely Woody Allen movie we will ever see. The nerd icon allegedly re-wrote the bulk of his dialogue to provide the voice of worker-ant Z who breaks out from his totalitarian rut when he falls in with Princess Bala (Sharon Stone). West End: Virgin Trocadero. Repertory: Prince Charles, And local cinemas

A BUG'S LIFE (U)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. And local cinemas

BULWORTH (18)

Warren Beatty's new satire is a blast: crude and audacious and committed, too. West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Hoymarket, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

DON'T GO BREAKING MY HEART (PG)
So how bad is *Don't Go Breaking my Heart*? Well, first off, it wastes the skills of Elton John, Edwards as a Yankee sports therapist in Blighty. Secondly, it overplays the charms of Jenny Seagrove as the widowed mum he gets together with. This arthritic weepie wheezes on towards a finale so predictable that you'd have to be dead not to see it coming. West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

ELIZABETH (15)

Shekhar Kapur's film is the story of a female figurehead struggling to gain purchase in a male world. But Kapur largely neglects the opportunities for fun in a story of independence triumphing over cruelty. West End: ABC Panton Street, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage. And local cinemas

ENEMY OF THE STATE (15)

Will Smith's fall-guy DA teams up with Gene Hackman's pensioned-off Pentagon warhorse, probes a political cover-up and gets embroiled in all manner of Big Brother-type trouble. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

HIDEOUS KINKY (15)

Through the teeming backdrop of 1970s Morocco treads Kate Winslet's hippie single-mum, her two daughters (Bella Rizzo, Carrie Mullan) unwillingly in tow. West End: Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Curzon Minima, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Renoir, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road. Repertory: Watermans Arts Centre. And local cinemas

HILARY AND JACKIE (15)

Full-throttle playing from Rachel Griffiths and Emily Watson sustains Anand Tucker's biopic of the Du Pré sisters. West End: Curzon Soho. Repertory: Watermans Arts Centre. And local cinemas

HOW STELLA GOT HER GROOVE BACK (15)
Essentially this is *Shirley Valentine* with an Afro-American spin, but Angela Bassett works hard to make an impression among the tourist-brochure visuals. With Whoopi Goldberg. West End: Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

I THINK I DO (15)

An excuse for reunions, for an ensemble cast, for the tensions of etiquette against emotion. Writer-director Brian Sloan ticks all the right boxes during this spry baby-boomer outing and yet it's too hyperactive and ingratiating for its own good. West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Virgin Fulham Road

JACK FROST (PG)

Out-of-season Yuletide tale. Michael Keaton plays a self-obsessed blues-man who dies and is reincarnated as a snowman. *The Full Monty's* Mark Addy co-stars as his best mate. They meet, they pass, and formula fun is had by all. West End: UCI Whitleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (LA VITA E BELLA) (PG)
See *The Independent Recommends*, above. West End: Barbican Screen, Curzon Mayfair, Odeon Kensington, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Hill, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. And local cinemas

LITTLE VOICE (15)

Holed up in her bedroom, timid North Country sparrow LV (Jane Horrocks) perfects strident impersonations of Shirley Bassey and Judy Garland. Bracing black comedy, Horrocks' vocal pyrotechnics, plus a marvellously weighted turn from Michael Caine push *Little Voice* through to the final curtain. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. And local cinemas

LIVING OUT LOUD (15)

Living Out Loud spins a sweet saga of female liberation, bolstered by a terrific performance from Holly Hunter as the lonesome divorcee drifting into an is-it-or-isn't it friendship with Danny DeVito's bereaved lift operator. West End: Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

MADELINE (U)

All aboard for storybook 1950s Paris. That gingerbread house on the corner is the boarding house attended by nine-year-old Madeline (Hatty Jones). That bat-faced woman out front is the strict instructor (Frances McDormand). That car going by is a Citroën. You get the picture. This overcooked rendering of Ludwig Bemelmans' kids' stories looks a shade one-dimensional; all artistry and no art. West End: Clapham Picture House, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG)

This gaudy swashbuckler gallops full-speed through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas' authentically Hispanic do-gooder. West End: Odeon Mezzanine, Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

MY GIANT (PG)

Billy Crystal plods his way through Michael "Heathers" Lehmann's Lilliputian comedy about a disreputable Hollywood agent who gets a few life lessons when he runs into a saintly giant (Gheorghe Mureşan) in Romania. Expect size jokes in the middle and glib morals at the end. Local: Harrow Warner Village. And local cinemas

THE OPPOSITE OF SEX (18)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above. West End: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

THE PARENT TRAP (PG)

The Parent Trap catches Disney cannibalising its own back catalogue, re-heating its 1961 heart-warmer into a spry caper. Starring Dennis Quaid and Natasha Richardson. Local cinemas

PECKER (18)

Trash auteur John Waters swerves into summer streets with Pecker, his fluffily satirical tale of an amateur Baltimore photographer adopted as a fly-on-the-wall artiste by the New York elite. West End: Metro

PI (PI) (15)

What sustains this film is the pure ingenuity of its central conceit, its ongoing "mathematics" is the language of "nature" mantra and lounge too-cool-for-school demeanour. It all adds up. West End: ABC Panton Street, Clapham Picture House

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Notting Hill, Curzon Soho, Curzon Minima, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Renoir, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero. Repertory: Phoenix Cinema. And local cinemas

YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS (18)

Another troubling X-ray of American mores from *In the Company of Men* director Neil LaBute. *Your Friends and Neighbors* widens its focus a little yet in all other respects this looks like a carbon copy of LaBute's debut. There are the same stage-bound confines, the same structured misanthropy, the same dense weave of dialogue. Two features in and LaBute has chewed this home to bits already. West End: Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Hill, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

WHAT'S BEAUTIFUL (LA VITA E BELLA) (PG)
See *The Independent Recommends*, above. West End: Barbican Screen, Curzon Mayfair, Odeon Kensington, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Hill, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. And local cinemas

WHAT'S BEAUTIFUL (LA VITA E BELLA) (PG)
See *The Independent Recommends*, above. West End: Barbican Screen, Curzon Mayfair, Odeon Kensington, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Hill, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. And local cinemas

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

AFFLICTION (15)

Paul Schrader's magnificently bleak study in fatherhood and fatalism (right) stars Nick Nolte as a man struggling to escape the influence of his violent dad (James Coburn).



LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (LA VITA E BELLA) (PG)

Roberto Benigni directs and stars in this tragicomic fable about an Italian Jew who tries to shield his boy from the horrors of Nazi concentration camp by pretending that the brutal regime is an elaborate game.

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15)

This enjoyable romp suggests how romance fired Shakespeare with the creative inspiration for *Romeo and Juliet*. Joseph Fiennes and Gwyneth Paltrow head a multi-star cast.

A BUG'S LIFE (U)

Less sophisticated and more child-friendly than *Antz*, this animated feature spins another enjoyable yarn about an ant colony and its battle to survive. Kevin Spacey provides the voice of the chief grasshopper.

THE OPPOSITE OF SEX (18)

Christina Ricci plays 16-year-old bitch-on-wheels Dede, who causes all kinds of havoc when she moves in with her half-brother (Martin Donovan).

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

COPENHAGEN (Duchess Theatre, London)

Michael Frayn's profound and haunting meditation on science, morality and the mysteries of human motivation. To 7 Aug.



OKLAHOMA! (Lyceum Theatre, London)

Widely regarded as the best ever, Trevor Nunn's glorious production (right) of the Rogers and Hammerstein classic fully deserves its West End transfer. To 26 Jun.

TOAST (Royal Court at The Ambassador's)

So you thought that the comic fascination of a mass-production bakery in 1970s Hull was somewhat limited? Richard Bean's delightfully funny play proves you wrong. To 6 Feb.

THE WINTER'S TALE (RSC, Stratford)

An amazingly rich and complex performance from Antony Sher in Gregory Doran's Romanov-style production. In rep. To 4 Mar.

THE TEMPEST (West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds)

Ian McKellen gives a low-key performance as Prospero who presides over an island prison reimagined as a correctional facility. To 27 Feb.

ANTHONY QUINN

CINEMA WEST END

ABC PANTOMIME STREET (0670-902 0404) ♦ Piccadilly Circus, Elizabeth 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm, Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm x (P) 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.25pm, 9.35pm, 12.15pm

ABC PICCADILLY (0171-287 4322) (from 1pm) ♦ Piccadilly Circus, Elizabeth 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm x (P) 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.25pm, 9.35pm, 12.15pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE (0670-902 0404) ♦ Leicester Square, Affection 1.0pm, 3.45pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm x (P) 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.25pm, 9.35pm, 12.15pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE (0670-902 0404) ♦ Leicester Square, Buffalo 1.0pm, 3.45pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm x (P) 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.25pm, 9.35pm, 12.15pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0670-902 0414) ♦ Tottenham Court Road, Bug's Life 1.0pm, 3.45pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm x (P) 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.25pm, 9.35pm, 12.15pm

ABC WEST END (0670-902 0404) ♦ Shaftesbury Avenue 1.0pm, 3.45pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm x (P) 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.25pm, 9.35pm, 12.15pm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE (0870-050007) ♦ Leicester Square, Bug's Life 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm, 9.15pm, 11.45pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH (0870-050007) ♦ Marble Arch, Bug's Life 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm, 9.15pm, 11.45pm

ODEON SWISS CENTRE (0870-050007) ♦ Swiss Centre, Elizabeth 1.35pm, 3.45pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm x (P) 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.25pm, 9.35pm, 12.15pm

ODEON TOTTENHAM COURT (0870-050007) ♦ Tottenham Court Road, Star Trek: Generations 1.0pm, 3.45pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm x (P) 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.25pm, 9.35pm, 12.15pm

ODEON WEST END (0870-050007) ♦ Shaftesbury Avenue, Little Voice 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5.45pm, 7.55pm, 9.15pm, 11.30pm

ODEON WEST END (0870-050007) ♦ Shaftesbury Avenue, Little Voice 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5.45pm, 7.55pm, 9.15pm, 11.30pm

FRIDAY RADIO

RADIO 1

97.6-99.5MHz FM
6.30 Zoe Ball 9.00 Mark Goodier.
12.04 Kevin Greening. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Chris Moyles. 5.45 Newsbeat. 6.00 Pete Tong's Essential Selection. 9.00 Judge Jules.
11.00 Westwood - Radio 1 Rap Show. 2.00 Fabio and Grooverider. 4.00 - 7.00 Clive Warren.

RADIO 2

88.9-92MHz FM

6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce.

12.04 Richard Littlejohn. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05 Des Lynam: Guests, sports news and music. 7.00 Morley at the Musicals. 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night: introduced by Richard Baker from the Hippodrome, Golders Green, London. Roderick Dunk conducts the BBC Concert Orchestra, led by Marin Lovelady, with guest artists Adrien Marin, Alison Buchanan and Kit and the Widow. 9.30 Listen to the Band. 10.00 David Jacobs.

11.00 Believe It or Not. 12.00 Lynn Parsons. 4.00 - 6.00 Late Shamus.

RADIO 3

90.2-92.4MHz FM

6.00 On Air.

9.00 Masterworks.

10.30 Artist of the Week.

11.00 Sound Stories.

12.00 Composer of the Week: Dvorak. Susan Sharron concludes her exploration of Dvorak's self-proclaimed 'Simple Czech music' by reflecting on how Dvorak reinvented Czech music in his own image. Music includes a Slavonic dance, the 'Dumky' piano trio, and the song of a bardic hero in his final symphonic poem: a self-portrait?

1.00 The Radio 3 Liederhalle Concert. A clarinet and piano recital given in Belfast's Waterfront Hall by Roman Guyot, principal clarinet with the Paris Opera Orchestra, and Philippe Cassard, winner of the Dublin GPA International Piano Competition. Merlini: Sonatina, Schubert: Arpeggione Sonata, Jani Guyot: Arpeggione Sonata. Schumann: Fantasiestücke, Op 73. Poulenc: Clarinet Sonata (R). The BBC Orchestras.

4.00 Music Restored.

4.45 Music Machine. (R)

5.00 In Tune. See Pick of the Day.

7.30 Performance on 3. A from last year's 1998 Edinburgh International Festival celebrating the music of Sir

PICK OF THE DAY

IT'S NOT CLEAR why it was felt necessary to liven up Flora Thompson's auto-biographical account of village life in late 19th-century Oxfordshire with 1990s foot blathering. Despite the intrusions, there is still much to enjoy in the second instalment of the *Afternoon Play* (2.15pm R4). *Lark Rise and Beyond*, which stars Maggie Steed (right) as the reminiscing Laura.



In Tune (5pm R3) gives us the lowdown on Delius's opera *The Magic Fountain*, on the eve of its premiere by the Scottish Opera. Meanwhile, The Sunday Format (6.30pm R4) is pretty unconvincing as a satire on Sunday newspapers, but its confidently delivered popcock should please those hungry for *On the Hour*-type fodder.

DOMINIC CAVENDISH

Donald Francis Tovey, one of Britain's finest writers on music, whose own richly romantic compositions are much less well known than his famous *Essays in Musical Analysis*. BBC Scottish SO/Martyn, Mats Lidstrom (cello), Richard Goode and Andreas Schiff (piano duet); Steven Osborne (piano); Tovey: Cello Concerto; Balliol Dances; Piano Concerto.

9.35 Postscript. Peggy Reynolds unravels the dramatic, musical and emotional impact of a favourite operatic aria. Francesca Zambello, Dame Gwyneth Jones, Jane Eaglen and Dennis Noll explore in this regular slot from Puccini's opera *Turandot*, in which the Turandot reveals the atrocities suffered by her ancestor which led her to execute an endless stream of suitors.

10.00 Hear and Now. In a concert given on Monday in Broadcasting House, London, Stefan Asbury conducts Ensemble Corrente in a programme of music by Western composers looking east, and composers from the Far East looking west. Michael Finnissey: Catena. Qiang Chen: Voyage d'en re. Glazunov: Scelsi: Kya. Unsuk Chin: Akrastionch-Wortspiel.

11.30 Jazz Century.

12.00 Composer of the Week: Tchaikovsky. The BBC Orchestras.

4.00 Music Restored.

4.45 Music Machine. (R)

5.00 In Tune. See Pick of the Day.

7.30 Performance on 3. A from last year's 1998 Edinburgh International Festival celebrating the music of Sir

10.00 NEWS: Women's Hour. 11.00 NEWS: Crashed. 11.30 Sunn Side Up. 12.00 NEWS: You and Yours. 12.57 Weather. 1.00 The World at One. 1.30 Puzzle Panel. 2.00 NEWS: The Archers. 2.25 Afternoon Play: Lark Rise and Des Pick of the Day. 3.00 NEWS: Changing Places. 3.30 Science in the Attic. 3.45 This Scattered Isle. 4.00 NEWS: Writers' Masterclass. 4.30 The Message. 5.00 PM. 5.57 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.30 The Sunday Format. See Pick of the Day. 7.00 NEWS: The Archers. 7.35 Front Row. Mark Lawson with the arts programme, including a look at the troubled life of composer Frederick Delius.

7.45 The Cry of the Bittern. An environmental drama by Tim Jackson. With Rachel Atkins, Ian Pepperell, Kelly Hunter and Sean Baker. Directed by Peter Leslie Wild (5/30). 8.00 NEWS: Any Questions?

9.00 Jonathan Dimbleby is joined at Westminster Cathedral Hall, London, by panelists including David Estelle, controller of Channel 5; and Nick Soames MP.

9.45 Letter from America. Alastair Cooke with another slice of Americana.

9.50 NEWS: The Friday Play. Glass. By Lesley Bruce. In 1761, Benjamin Franklin invented the glass harmoni-

ca. This peculiar instrument linked the lives of three famous men. With Adam Godley, Nicholas Farrell, Jon Strickland and Tracey Wiles. Director Claire Grove. McLeod and Dawn McCormick. Written and directed by Jeremy Weisz.

10.00 The World Tonight. With Robin Lustig.

10.45 Bed at Bedtime: Post Captain. Patrick Malahide reads Patrick O'Brien's novel following the fortunes of Captain Jack Aubrey and his friend Dr Stephen Maturin in the Royal Navy of Nelson's time. Jack is given command of a secret weapon (5/10).

11.00 NEWS: Late Tackie. Eleanor Oldroyd and guests discuss the week's sporting agenda. 11.30 Front Page Sport. 12.00 News.

12.30 The Late Book: All Points North. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 Leisure Update. 5.55 - 6.00 Weather.

RADIO 4 LW

9.45 - 10.00 An Act of Worship. 12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines: Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast.

RADIO 5 LIVE

(693.909kHz MW)

6.00 Breakfast.

9.00 Nicky Campbell.

12.00 The Midday News. 1.00 Ruscon and Co. 4.00 Drive.

7.00 News Extra. 7.30 Brian Moore's Sportsnight. Brian Moore sits in for Alan Green again to look back on the week's sporting stories and preview the weekend's action with his studio guests.

10.00 Late Night Live. Insight and comment on the day's big issues with Brian Hayes. Including *Parapunk*. 10.30 Sport. 11.00 The Financial World Tonight.

1.00 Up All Night.

5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports. CLASSIC FM

(1000-1019MHz FM)

6.00 Nick Bailey. 6.00 Henry Kelly.

12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto.

3.00 Jamie Cricht. 6.30 Newsnight.

7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven.

9.00 Evening Concert: Holst: St Paul's Suite. City of London Sinfonia/Richard Hickox. Delius: Two Pieces for cello and chamber orchestra. Julian Lloyd Webber, Academy of St Martin in the Fields/Neville Marriner. Delius: Violin Concerto. Iain Little Welsh National Opera Orchestra/Charles Mackerras. Holst: The Planets. Philharmonic Orchestra. Ambrosian Singers/Simon Rattle.

1.00 Michael Mapo. 2.00 Concerto.

3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

VIRGIN RADIO

(125.1197-1260kHz MW)

6.30 Chris Evans. 9.30 Russ Williams. 1.00 Nick Abbott. 4.00 Harriet Scott. 7.00 Wheels of Steel.

1.00 Janet Lee Grace. 2.00 - 6.00 Steve Power.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO

(198kHz LW)

1.00 The World Today. 1.30 Meridian (Books). 2.00 The World Today.

2.30 People and Politics. 3.00 The World Today. 3.20 Sports Roundup.

3.30 World Business Report. 3.45 Insight. 4.00 The World Today. 4.30 Weekend. 5.00 The World Today.

5.30 - 6.00 My Century.

TALK RADIO

6.00 David Banks and Nick Ferrari.

9.00 Scott Chisholm. 1.00 Anna Reuben. 3.00 OK to Tak. 5.00 The SportZone. 8.00 Jackie Mason - Live from New York. 10.00 Dave Barrett's Phone-In with the Midnight Psychic. 2.00 - 6.00 Mike Dickin.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

JON SPPELMAN

JUST AFTER the new year I enthused about the issue of Vladimir Vulovic's *The Art of Attack in Chess* (Everyman, £18.99). Good middlegame books are thin on the ground so it's pleasing to be able to welcome a completely new one: John Watson's *Secrets of Modern Chess Strategy* (£19.99).

Watson, an experienced American international master and chess teacher, is among the admirable minority of chess authors who always include plenty of their own original analysis. His latest ambitious project is best characterised by the subtitle *Advances since Nimzowitsch*, referring to the great Aaron Nimzowitsch's three books in the mid to late Twenties - *Blockade*, *My System* and *Chess Praxis*, which roughly speaking set out the hypermodern manifesto in reaction to earlier classical theories of chess.

Watson has divided his material into two parts: "The Refinement of Traditional Theory", essentially a reprise of the old ideas and Nimzowitsch's emendations with some small further modern twists; and the more radical "New Ideas and the Modern Revolution".

In the earlier chapters, there are many gentle references to borrow from the past. One interesting case is in the Ruy Lopez after 1.e4 e5 2.Nb5 Bb4 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.Bf4 Bf5 5.Bd3 Nc6 6.Bc4 Bb7 7.Bb3 Nf6 8.Bd2 Nc6 9.Bc4 Bb7 10.Bd3 Nf6 11.Bb3 Nc6 12.Bd2 Nf6 13.Bb3 Nc6 14.Bd2 Nf6 15.Bb3 Nc6 16.Bd2 Nf6 17.Bb3 Nc6 18.Bd2 Nf6 19.Bb3 Nc6 20.Bd2 Nf6 21.Bb3 Nc6 22.Bd2 Nf6 23.Bb3 Nc6 24.Bd2 Nf6 25.Bb3 Nc6 26.Bd2 Nf6 27.Bb3 Nc6 28.Bd2 Nf6 29.Bb3 Nc6 30.Bd2 Nf6 31.Bb3 Nc6 32.Bd2 Nf6 33.Bb3 Nc6 34.Bd2 Nf6 35.Bb3 Nc6 36.Bd2 Nf6 37.Bb3 Nc6 38.Bd2 Nf6 39.Bb3 Nc6 40.Bd2 Nf6 41.Bb3 Nc6 42.Bd2 Nf6 43.Bb3 Nc6 44.Bd2 Nf6 45.Bb3 Nc6 46.Bd2 Nf6 47.Bb3 Nc6 48.Bd2 Nf6 49.Bb3 Nc6 50.Bd2 Nf6 51.Bb3 Nc6 52.Bd2 Nf6 53.Bb3 Nc6 54.Bd2 Nf6 55.Bb3 Nc6 56.Bd2 Nf6 57.Bb3 Nc6 58.Bd2 Nf6 59.Bb3 Nc6 60.Bd2 Nf6 61.Bb3 Nc6 62.Bd2 Nf6 63.Bb3 Nc6 64.Bd2 Nf6 65.Bb3 Nc6 66.Bd2 Nf6 67.Bb3 Nc6 68.Bd2 Nf6 69.Bb3 Nc6 70.Bd2 Nf6 71.Bb3 Nc6 72.Bd2 Nf6 73.Bb3 Nc6 74.Bd2 Nf6 75.Bb3 Nc6 76.Bd2 Nf6 77.Bb3 Nc6 78.Bd2 Nf6 79.Bb3 Nc6 80.Bd2 Nf6 81.Bb3 Nc6 82.Bd2 Nf6 83.Bb3 Nc6 84.Bd2 Nf6 85.Bb3 Nc6 86.Bd2 Nf6 87.Bb3 Nc6 88.Bd2 Nf6 89.Bb3 Nc6 90.Bd2 Nf6 91.Bb3 Nc6 92.Bd2 Nf6 93.Bb3 Nc6 94.Bd2 Nf6 95.Bb3 Nc6 96.Bd2 Nf6 97.Bb3 Nc6 98.Bd2 Nf6 99.Bb3 Nc6 100.Bd2 Nf6 101.Bb3 Nc6 102.Bd2 Nf6 103.Bb3 Nc6 104.Bd2 Nf6 105.Bb3 Nc6 106.Bd2 Nf6 107.Bb3 Nc6 108.Bd2 Nf6 109.Bb3 Nc6 110.Bd2 Nf6 111.Bb3 Nc6 112.Bd2 Nf6 113.Bb3 Nc6 114.Bd2 Nf6 115.Bb3 Nc6 116.Bd2 Nf6 117.Bb3 Nc6 118.Bd2 Nf6 119.Bb3 Nc6 120.Bd2 Nf6 121.Bb3 Nc6 122.Bd2 Nf6 123.Bb3 Nc6 124.Bd2 Nf6 125.Bb3 Nc6 126.Bd2 Nf6 127.Bb3 Nc6 128.Bd2 Nf6 129.Bb3 Nc6 130.Bd2 Nf6 131.Bb3 Nc6 132.Bd2 Nf6 133.Bb3 Nc6 134.Bd2 Nf6 135.Bb3 Nc6 136.Bd2 Nf6 137.Bb3 Nc6 138.Bd2 Nf6 139.Bb3 Nc6 140.Bd2 Nf6 141.Bb3 Nc6 142.Bd2 Nf6 143.Bb3 Nc6 144.Bd2 Nf6 145.Bb3 Nc6 146.Bd2 Nf6 147.Bb3 Nc6 148.Bd2 Nf6 149.Bb3 Nc6 150.Bd2 Nf6 151.Bb3 Nc6 152.Bd2 Nf6 153.Bb3 Nc6 154.Bd2 Nf6 155.Bb3 Nc6 156.Bd2 Nf6 157.Bb3 Nc6 158.Bd2 Nf6 159.Bb3 Nc6 160.Bd2 Nf6 161.Bb3 Nc6 162.Bd2 Nf6 163.Bb3 Nc6 164.Bd2 Nf6 165.Bb3 Nc6 166.Bd2 Nf6 167.Bb3 Nc6 168.Bd2 Nf6 169.Bb3 Nc6 170.Bd2 Nf6 171.Bb3 Nc6 172.Bd2 Nf6 173.Bb3 Nc6 174.Bd2 Nf6 175.Bb3 Nc6 176.Bd2 Nf6 177.Bb3 Nc6 178.Bd2 Nf6 179.Bb3 Nc6 180.Bd2 Nf6 181.Bb3 Nc6 182.Bd2 Nf6 183.Bb3 Nc6 184.Bd2 Nf6 185.Bb3 Nc6 186.Bd2 Nf6 187.Bb3 Nc6 188.Bd2 Nf6 189.Bb3 Nc6 190.Bd2 Nf6 191.Bb3 Nc6 192.Bd2 Nf6 193.Bb3 Nc6 194.Bd2 Nf6 195.Bb3 Nc6 196.Bd2 Nf6 197.Bb3 Nc6 198.Bd2 Nf6 199.Bb3 Nc6 200.Bd2 Nf6 201.Bb3 Nc6 202.Bd2 Nf6 203.Bb3 Nc6 204.Bd2 Nf6 205.Bb3 Nc6 206.Bd2 Nf6 207.Bb3 Nc6 208.Bd2 Nf6 209.Bb3 Nc6 210.Bd2 Nf6 211.Bb3 Nc6 212.Bd2 Nf6 213.Bb3 Nc6 214.Bd2 Nf6 215.Bb3 Nc6 216.Bd2 Nf6 217

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FRIDAY TELEVISION

BBC1

ROBERT
HANKS

TELEVISION REVIEW



IF YOU EVER find yourself thinking that Britain has become a modern, enlightened country, it's worth spending a few minutes with Kitow (BBC1) to restore a sense of reality.

Yesterday in coming, the bronzed one backed the question or what should be done with asylum seekers. Then Labour MP Martin Linton came on to argue, in his usual forthrightness, that the real problem lay with the economic migrants who tried to abuse the asylum system and were undermining the "genuine" asylum seekers.

But this was a case with the messiah complex that Kitow (BBC1) directed the film, aimed for a

rigorous naturalism that most

documentaries nowadays avoid.

Unstable, bobbing camera, low-key acting. There were times when it went too far, the punchy aftermath of Stephen's

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